

Telephone warning too late, police say

New IRA gang blamed for station bombs

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE bomb that ripped through a crowded railway station concourse in London yesterday, killing one person and injuring 40 others, is believed by police to be the work of a new IRA team determined to attack ordinary citizens as well as political and military targets.

As the search for evidence continued last night, senior police sources disclosed that they were now virtually certain that the mortar bomb attack against Downing Street 12 days ago and the explosions at Victoria and Paddington stations yesterday were the work of the same gang. One official spoke of the start of a "new phase" in the IRA's mainland operations.

The first bomb exploded at Paddington station at 4.20am, damaging the roof of the concourse, scaffolding and television monitors at the end of platforms six and seven. Nobody was hurt and police said later that no warning had been given.

The second bomb exploded at Victoria station as commuters crowded onto platforms at

Victoria, minutes after the bomb...
New departure for IRA campaign...
Up to us to beat the bombers...
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the beginning of the morning rush-hour. Police dismissed claims last night that they should have acted more decisively after being told shortly after 7am that a man with an Irish accent had telephoned the London Transport Travel Centre to warn that bombs would go off "in all mainline stations in 45 minutes". At 7.40am a bomb exploded in a litter bin on the main concourse of Victoria station.

Had the device, containing between 2lbs and 5lbs of explosive, gone off 20 minutes later, there would probably have been three times as many casualties. As it was, about a dozen commuters were hit by shrapnel and flying glass in the most deliberate strike against "civilians" since the 1983 Harrods bombing in which six people were killed and 77 were injured.

One eye-witness spoke of a man who had appeared to have half his face blown away, while others described commuters walking almost casually out of the station. The dead man, who was in his 40s, was killed instantly after a piece of shrapnel was embedded in his chest.

Fourteen ambulances arrived at the scene within minutes and the injured were taken to Westminster and St Thomas's hospitals in central London. Two patients were later transferred to Charing Cross hospital, one with an eye injury requiring specialist treatment and another with head injuries that needed neurosurgery.

Surgeons carried out about a dozen major operations during the day. One woman in her twenties had to have a foot amputated and three other patients underwent complex limb surgery to rebuild their legs.

The youngest survivor was a boy aged 12 who was operated on for cuts to his legs. Meirion Thomas, a consultant surgeon at Westminster, said he had dealt with victims from the Harrods bombing in 1983, but: "The injuries today are much, much worse."

The blasts brought chaos for commuters, effectively closing the capital yesterday morning to railway passengers. British Rail, which closed all mainline stations after the second explosion, estimated that about 470,000 commuters had their journey to work disrupted. Paddington station and parts of Victoria were still shut yesterday evening, causing further commuter delays.

George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the warning, if genuine, was deliberately timed to prevent the emergency services acting in time to find the Victoria device. A London Transport spokesman said the call had been taken by a travel information clerk. "The caller said the stations should be evacuated. A code was given

that seemed to identify the caller as being from the IRA, which is what he claimed."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said, however: "No code word exists which would have alerted us to this caller in particular." He said it was not unusual for hoaxes to give a code word.

"The alleged code word used has never been used before. There is no recognised code used by the Provisional IRA."

Mr Churchill-Coleman told journalists: "You will appreciate that the vagueness of the information, the manner in which it was passed, coupled with the time lapse involved, was quite deliberate. The perpetrators knew very well that there was insufficient time for the emergency services to locate and deal with the device."

The attack, which the commander was convinced was the IRA's work, had been "totally indiscriminate and vicious". He urged the public to be extra vigilant.

The assistant chief constable of the British Transport police also defended the decision not to close all the mainline stations after the warning. Ian McGregor said the large number of hoax bomb threats received each day presented rail managers, the only people with the authority to close stations, with fine judgments. On average, British Transport police dealt with six hoax calls or suspected devices every day in London.

There had been 29 hoax telephone calls received in the capital last Friday and by the time the Victoria station



bomb went off 19 such call had already been taken.

However, Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, the biggest rail union, said hard questions needed to be asked about the police's response to the incidents. "If there was a direct warning 40 minutes before the Victoria explosion what were the police doing?"

Last night, John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, called on ministers to discover and make public precisely what actions were taken in the aftermath of the explosion at Paddington station.

He released figures showing that the number of British Transport police, responsible for security on station concourses, had fallen from 1,842 in 1982 to 1,488 by April 1990. He is due to meet Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, this afternoon to see what further security measures can be introduced at railway stations.



After the bomb: debris on the main concourse of Victoria station left by yesterday's explosion, which killed one man and injured 40 others

Heseltine opts for property tax

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SCRAPPING the poll tax and replacing it with a property tax based on the number of people living in a household has emerged as the scheme most favoured by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, in the cabinet's review of local government.

The plan topped the agenda at a meeting of ministers under the chairmanship of John Major at Westminster last night. Mr Heseltine expects to be able to make a Commons statement on his intentions before Parliament rises for the Easter recess.

High-ranking environment sources insisted last night that the community charge in any recognisable form was doomed. "No-one is arguing for its retention," one insider said, indicating that there was widespread support in the government for the formula emerging from the environment department.

The detailed disclosure of Mr Heseltine's latest proposals comes as the environment secretary fights a rearguard action against influential cabinet colleagues pressing for local finance legislation before the general election. Mr Heseltine maintains that his scheme represents such a fundamental change that it could not be rushed through in a bill squeezed into the last legislative programme of the present Parliament.

The environment secretary will be urged to outline his intentions in today's Opposition debate on the poll tax. Although he is unlikely to go into much detail, he is determined to unveil his scheme in good time for the local elections in May. He is irritated by what he sees as attempts by his cabinet colleagues to force him into premature legislation.

The new property tax would be based on floor areas rather than capital values or the number of people living in the house. Continued on page 18, col 1

Help extended, page 3

Moscow's peace plan fails to halt allied push

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, flew home from Moscow last night with a Soviet peace plan but the White House said it expected no breakthrough.

The administration was expecting details from Moscow, but Martin Fletcher, the presidential spokesman, said it had "always anticipated a ground war and that was fast approaching."

"All our hopes at this point are on the conflict in the air and on the ground in terms of pushing Iraq out of Kuwait."

The allied war effort was on course and "we've been given no reason to change it at this time," he said. Asked if the peace plan could delay a ground offensive, he replied: "I wouldn't make any assumptions."

Washington had given Moscow no such assurances. The only question of interest to the US was whether Iraq would or would not agree to a massive, rapid and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Announcing the outcome of yesterday's talks, President Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said that the president had proposed "a specific plan of action to settle the conflict... by political means."

"We believe," he went on with barely concealed pleasure, "that it was accepted with interest and understanding by the Iraqi side."

Mr Ignatenko declined to elaborate on the plan, but said

that it was "detailed, carefully thought out and precise". He could not reveal more, he said, because it was "an extremely delicate and utterly crucial moment". He said Moscow expected a reply to its proposals "without delay".

By the time Mr Ignatenko made his statement, Mr Aziz was already in the air on his way back to Baghdad via Tehran. Mr Ignatenko indicated that he might return to Moscow in person with the Iraqi leader's response.

The spokesman described the talks as "constructive" - a sharp contrast with official reports of Mr Aziz's visit to Moscow in October, when the Soviet side made clear that there had been sharp differences of opinion. According to Mr Ignatenko, Mr Aziz had clarified that the points attached to the proposals made by Iraq last Friday were to be regarded as constituting a "programme", not "conditions" for withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Soviet plan, which Mr Ignatenko said had been drafted by President Gorbachev, is widely regarded as offering the last chance of avoiding a land war for Kuwait. Its acceptance would have the additional benefit for Moscow of boosting Mr Gorbachev's flagging reputation abroad, which was greatly damaged by the army's intervention in the Baltic.

No officials in Moscow have divulged details of what

must now become known as the Gorbachev plan, but one feature is believed to be a Soviet guarantee that Iraq will remain a sovereign state and keep its pre-war boundaries. Other elements can be construed from statements made recently by Soviet and visiting diplomats and from Iraq's recent set of proposals.

The Soviet capital has been a hive of diplomatic activity for the past week, as Mr Gorbachev apparently sounded out West European and Kuwaiti opinion about his peace plan. Yesterday morning he was reported to have telephoned Chancellor Kohl of Germany in connection with the visit of Mr Aziz, though the content of the conversation was not divulged.

Both Yevgeni Primakov, Continued on page 18, col 6

Quadrant for allies, page 6
Saddam's home front, page 7
Total war, page 10
Leading article and Letters, page 11

PSBR of £10bn may hit budget

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor may announce a substantially higher public sector borrowing requirement than many private economists have been expecting when he presents his budget next month.

Because of the effects of the recession on the government's revenues and expenditure plans, Treasury economists may forecast a borrowing requirement in the region of £10 billion, even with no net tax cuts or deliberate expansions in public spending.

The swing from an expected debt repayment of £3 billion this year would represent one of the sharpest deteriorations in the government's fiscal position on record. But worse deficit projections are understood to have been produced by the Treasury's model.

The Treasury's expectation of a large borrowing requirement next year were not affected by better-than-expected figures on revenues and borrowing in January. Full report, page 19

INSIDE

Soviet prices rise by 60%

The Soviet prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, said yesterday that retail prices would have to rise on average by 60 per cent across the board if the Soviet economy was not to run out of money.

He promised substantial compensation for all sections of the population to cushion the blow. Page 18

Soviet shakedown, page 8

Superpit rejected

British Coal's plans for a £400 million superpit in the Midlands were rejected on environmental grounds yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. Page 4

Barclays anger

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union has reacted angrily to Barclays' decision to shed up to 17,000 jobs within five years. Union leaders will meet the bank today to discuss the job losses. Page 19

Disabled hope

The appointment of Britain's first blind judge may help to break down barriers for the disabled. Page 27

Shaping up



Joanne Woodward, above, tipped for the Best Actress Oscar, discloses how real-life observations helped to shape the characterisations in *Mr and Mrs Bridge* - the film in which she appears with husband, Paul Newman. Page 15

Dexter's quest

Ted Dexter, the England cricket committee chairman, will be seeking re-election at a meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board next month. Page 34

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Ten out of ten for maths teachers (and pupils)

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AT LAST, top marks today for the beleaguered state education system: the schools inspectorate has abandoned its normal coded messages to deliver a glowing verdict on the state of mathematics.

Less than a week after Eric Bolton, the senior chief inspector, insisted that the deficiencies in schools were being exaggerated, his staff produced supporting evidence. Their first report on the impact of the national curriculum registers clear signs of improvement in the teaching of mathematics.

In the first year of the national curriculum, the proportion of poor or unsatisfactory maths fell in both primary and secondary schools. Three-quarters of lessons observed by

inspectors are considered good or adequate.

Even an increase in the use of calculators by five year-olds finds favour with the inspectors. "Where they were used sensibly, in conjunction with appropriate mental calculations, pupil performance benefited," the report says.

The 34-page report, which concentrated on provision for five and 11-year-olds, says: "The large majority of schools had responded to the challenge of the national curriculum by reviewing schemes of work and generally evaluating their practices, although some schools had hardly begun the process."

Teachers are said to have coped well with an increased workload and standards were rising even though uncertainties about assessment, recording and reporting pupils' progress had caused additional difficulties. The most successful schools are those where the staff worked as a team, effectively led by a maths co-ordinator or head of department.

In spite of staff shortages in a quarter of schools, there had been greater co-operation and sharing of ideas about the teaching of maths and high attendance at in-service training sessions.

Microcomputers were in more frequent use and, especially in primary schools, work was better matched to pupils' capabilities.

The inspectors' criticisms are levelled partly at the resources available to teachers, although teachers of the youngest children sometimes lacked confidence and some pupils were not found to be sufficiently taxed by their work. Equipment for 11-year-olds was often unsatisfactory and only a third

of secondary schools had the specialist rooms inspectors thought desirable.

In visits to almost 700 schools in 1989 and 1990, 24 per cent of primary work was considered poor, compared with 29 per cent the previous year, while in secondary schools the proportion fell from 35 per cent to 27 per cent.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said gleefully: "Once again the teachers have come up trumps and have put in the work to make the national curriculum a success."

"The critics have been looking at schools from a very narrow perspective without understanding the advances in education or the changing demands of society."

Mathematics: key stages one and three: a report by HM Inspectorate on the first year, 1989-90; Stationery Office, £2.95

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THE WITNESSES

'His eyes were closed. They were really battling to save him'

By WILLIAM CASH

VICTORIA Station was bustling with commuters about to start another week at work when the IRA bomb ripped through platforms three and four at 7.40 am causing carnage and panic.

Still wearing blood splattered plastic gloves from attending the injured, Glen Allen, aged 28, a British Rail revenue officer, said that the platform shook with the force of the blast and a cloud of debris and glass flew in all directions. "There was smoke and blood everywhere. If it had been a few minutes later on the next platform I wouldn't be here."

More fortunate still was Graham Bonham-Carter, aged 30, an hotelier from Hammer-smith, west London, who was about to board the 7.57 to

Ashford, Kent, when he heard a deafening bang and the pressure of a fireball less than 30 yards in front of him. After an eerie silence, he ran to help a seriously wounded man until an ambulance arrived. All around, people were screaming and running for cover.

"He was 15ft in front of me and I stayed with him for the whole thing," Mr Bonham-Carter said. "He had a fractured jaw, half his foot was hanging off and a broken left leg. He was conscious throughout. I went up and talked to him and even got him laughing. He said he was on his way to an electrical safety conference in Eastbourne, I think, and was keeping in good spirits, although in pain."

A few minutes later rescue workers arrived and started

trying to revive a middle aged man in casual clothes sprawled 10 yards in front of Mr Bonham-Carter. The man was quickly attached to two drips, his chest was pumped, a heart monitor attached to him and injections administered. "They were really battling with him. He looked to have taken the full brunt of the blast and was in a very bad way with his eyes closed."

Before the rescue services arrived, a cyclist had tried giving the man the kiss of life as well as a lady who had just the night before finished a first aid course. "It was really unpleasant, all his stomach and chest was exposed," Mr Bonham-Carter added.

Victoria Station and the Grosvenor Victoria hotel were quickly evacuated by police. London Transport buses were abandoned and ambulances

wailed out of Terminus Place past a large crowd of dazed British Rail guards and passengers, rushing the injured to Westminster and St Thomas' hospitals. Police officers in flak jackets and sniffer dogs were quick to arrive and check for more suspicious packages.

Jaymit Patel, a London Bus driver, said that he had just finished his route and was buying a newspaper when the explosion occurred, causing the bus to terminate to shake. Clinging the grey metal cash-box with his bus's morning takings, Mr Patel said that after the explosion everyone froze in stunned silence.

He saw at least two dozen injured people running out, including a young girl by the entrance to Victoria Station covered by a jacket, and a man sitting down with his face

covered in blood. "Half his face looked out away, although there was so much blood you couldn't see how deep the cuts were," Mr Patel said.

Inside the station pools of blood, abandoned briefcases, rucksacks and a bicycle with pannier were strewn around the central concourse with the remains of a floral display. A commuter train, its doors wide open, stood empty on platform three. The platforms serve the local south London suburban line to Brixton and Sydenham, as well as the main Dover service.

The windows of newsgents W H Smith were shattered, along with a fluorescent advertising sign from which dangled electric wires, papers and pens. A self-service ticket dispenser at platforms 3/4 had its roof twisted in and shards of a red plastic litter

bin, possibly the bin in which the bomb had been placed, blackened by the blast were scattered across the floor amid a heap of debris and broken glass. Patches of blood extended from the ticket machine and telephone kiosk area to the main entrance.

Jeremy Rose, aged 23, from Palmers Green, north London, who was buying a ticket when the bomb exploded, said that there were well over a thousand people in the station at the time. "Beside me there were 30 or so people queuing for tickets. There was this almighty bang. Everyone froze and a cloud of white smoke came towards us. It was sheer pandemonium."

He said that people were at first confused as to whether it was a bomb because the noise of the explosion sounded as if something had fallen off a

building or as if somebody had dropped something. After the initial shock, there was a rush for the exits, although Mr Rose said that people were not panicking. "Sitting by the edge of the tube was a man who appeared to have half his face missing."

British Rail workers unable to return to work were huddled in groups under the archways of Grosvenor Gardens. Gerald Fernandez, who was in the BR manager's office above the explosion with three other staff, said that he ran downstairs and saw people lying on the concourse injured. "I did not hesitate to stop and was ordered out of the building immediately."

Later, victims talked of their ordeal. Matthew Cyprus, of Clapham, south London, said that he picked up his bag and left the station as quickly

as he could in spite of almost losing a leg. "I've lost the best part of my foot in the blast. But there were other people who were hurt worse than me. They had all sorts of injuries - leg injuries and arm injuries - and there were people all over the floor."

He did not know if surgeons would have to remove the whole foot but he put a brave face on his plight. "I'm fine in myself. Maybe later on it will hit me," Vicki Fathers, who was at his bedside, said that Mr Cyprus was helped out of the station by a bus conductor. "I looked across after I heard a bang and saw all this smoke. I can't believe it's happened."

Mr Cyprus said that he was lucky to be alive. Of the bombing, he said: "It's a disgrace. It's an absolute disgrace. How can you say anything other than that?"

THE WARNING

Police decided not to evacuate after 'vague' phone call

By RAY CLANCY

POLICE decided not to evacuate London's mainline stations yesterday after a bomb warning because the information was too vague, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch admitted.

Forty minutes after the warning an explosion at Victoria killed one man and

injured 40 others. Commander George Churchill-Coleman defended the decision and said that it was easy with the benefit of hindsight to suggest that stations should have been cleared when a bomb exploded at Paddington at 4.20am. Instead it was decided that thorough searches would be carried out by British Transport Police. It was not until a second bomb exploded at Victoria nearly three and a half hours later that the evacuation of all concourses began.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said that a number of hoax calls were received shortly after the Paddington blast. At 7am a man with an Irish accent telephoned, claiming to be a member of the IRA and saying that bombs were "to go off" in all mainline stations within 45 minutes, but the vagueness meant no immediate evacuations were carried out.

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CHRONOLOGY

City's rail system halted

4.20 am: Bomb explodes at Paddington. No one injured. Alert goes out and searches of all other stations begin.

Shortly afterwards: George Churchill-Coleman, head of anti-terrorist branch arrives at scene of blast.

A few minutes later: Ian McGregor, assistant chief constable British Transport Police, flies with Scotland Yard. Decides there was "no specific threat".

7 am: Telephone warning received at London Transport Travel Centre: "Bombs to go off in all main-line stations in 45 minutes."

Within minutes: Mr McGregor again consults with Scotland Yard, decides warning "too vague". More searches but no evacuation.

7.10 am: Mr Churchill-Coleman gives press conference confirming Paddington blast.

7.40 am: Bomb explodes in litter bin at Victoria.

7.44 am: First call received at London ambulance Service headquarters. First ambulance at scene in seven minutes.

7.54 am: BR telex goes out to all stations telling drivers of London-bound trains to stop.

8.00 am: All main-line stations in London closed. Up to 500,000 passengers stuck on diverted trains. Underground trains pass closed stations.

12.50 pm: Press conference at Scotland Yard. Police admit stations were not evacuated because warning "too vague".

During the afternoon: Litter bins removed from stations. 3.35 pm: Euston, Charing Cross, London Bridge, Fenchurch Street, and King's Cross reopened.

4 pm: Part of Victoria reopened. St Pancras, Liverpool St and Waterloo East open.

4.15 pm: Cannon St, Blackfriars and Marylebone open.

Disruption to British Rail services after the bombing of Paddington and Victoria stations began to ease by mid afternoon yesterday, with rail managers confident of returning to a near-normal service by this morning.

Euston, Charing Cross, London Bridge, Fenchurch Street, and King's Cross stations were fully operational by 3.30pm in preparation for the evening rush hour. Blackfriars, Marylebone, St Pancras, Liverpool Street, Waterloo East, and Victoria Central stations opened 30 minutes later.

Paddington Station, along with Victoria East station, remained closed while the security services continued to search through the debris. The resumption of services from Waterloo and Moorgate sta-

THE COMMUTERS

Struggling to the City against the odds

By JOE JOSEPH

Half a million commuters were struggling to work when the IRA's bombs caused London's central rail stations to be closed - but London did not grind to a halt.

This was partly due to the kind of spirit expressed by Jeremy Rose, a witness at Victoria: "I'd like to tell whoever is planning these bombs that it's not going to put people like me off from travelling."

It was also due to the fact that London had had some fierce practice at not grinding to a halt, having spent a week in the stocks because of the wrong kind of snow. It was British Rail's estimate that

about half a million commuters were forced to commute in more imaginative ways yesterday than they had planned at breakfast. Those lacking imagination were advised not to travel at all.

International business travel has already shrivelled because of Iraqi terrorist scares. Presumably executives are realising that expensive meetings in New York and Tokyo are not as easy as they thought. Last week many offices were running with half their normal staffs because of the weather. Yesterday the absentee rate again swelled.

Most Londoners, however, seemed determined to get to

work, if only to show that they would not be cowed by the bombers. Sir Bob Reid, BR's chairman, said: "There are a number of evil forces operating in our country. What they want to do is to disrupt us. But this country has to go on operating because that's what we are made of. What these people are after is maximum disruption. Maximum disruption they will not get."

Nobody complained at BR's decision to close all of London's main railway stations to check for bombs. But timetables were already thin because so many trains had been laid low by snow last week. That amplified the com-

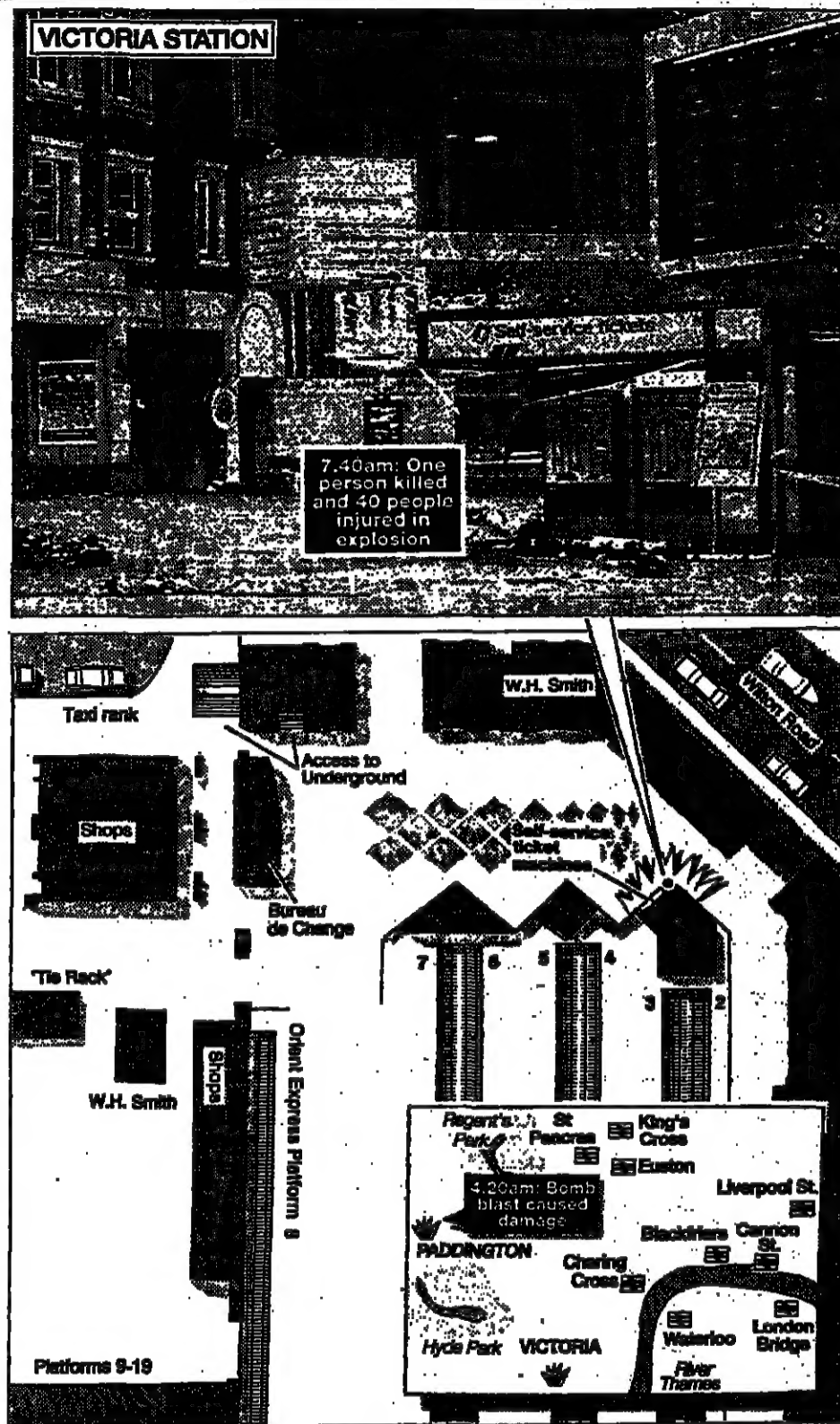
muter chaos, disrupting the routes of about 800 trains that normally come in to London's main BR stations in the morning rush. The Underground took much of the burden, the capital's roads took the rest. Cars crawled. Some bus queues were more than 200 yards long.

Many workers were making it to their desks yesterday just in time for lunch. Four-hour journeys were common. Many had walked the last few miles after being turned out of their trains in a London suburb. At least it wasn't raining.

Many dealers in the City were already at their desks before the chaos struck. Fi-

nance houses reported that only about 10 per cent of their staff had not shown. The stockbroker Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which has about 2,000 staff in London, said numbers were down but that the explosion had not seriously affected operations. The stock exchange reported business as usual. Lloyd's insurance market was undermanned: the underwriters' flock, which has up to 5,000 people on a busy day, was looking "rather quiet". The wheels of justice slowed a little as jurors, judges and barristers struggled to the Old Bailey.

London article, page 11



THE HOSPITAL

Medical staff move to repair damage again

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE explosion at Victoria station triggered an all too well-rehearsed routine at Westminster hospital. Within minutes of the blast, London ambulance control had warned the hospital to carry out its major incident procedure.

Surgeons, anaesthetists and haematologists were quickly assembled from all the hospital's departments to form a 50-strong team to deal with victims. The first injured were brought in at 8am. By 8.35am, 32 victims had arrived, including one man who had been killed instantly by a huge shrapnel wound to the chest.

Jeremy Booth, consultant in charge of the accident and emergency unit, said that most of the casualties had shrapnel wounds in the arms and legs. "There's lots of metal about," he said. "It's twisted spirals of metal, the largest about an inch long. They have penetrated very deeply, sometimes to the bone. It's impossible to say whether they came from inside whatever device was used, but some of them were certainly pieces of the litter bin in which the bomb had apparently been hidden."

Mr Booth said that the hospital had four operating theatres working constantly. By mid-afternoon they had completed emergency operations on ten casualties, all with severe injuries. One young woman had a foot amputated, and three other victims had complex reconstruction surgery to rebuild legs. One was still in intensive care last night. The youngest victim, a boy of 12 with flesh wounds to his legs from shrapnel, was said to be "stable and doing very well".

One of the injured awaiting surgery, Matthew Cyprus, aged 22, said: "I was standing at the platform and there was a big blinding light, and wall of fire followed by a noise which came towards me and then I fell on the floor."

"There was a lot of people on the floor and running out and screaming 'get out as quickly as you can'. I could see lots of others far more seriously injured than I was, though I have lost the best part of my foot."

Once the accident unit was full, further casualties were taken to St Thomas's hospital, in south London. Two patients were transferred from Westminster to Charing Cross hospital, one with an eye injury requiring specialist treatment and another with head injuries needing neurosurgical attention.

Mr Booth said that some

operations had taken five hours in theatre and used up to 15 units of blood. Several patients would need further operations later in the week.

"I'm pleased to say we are very confident that our surgeons will have saved the three legs on which reconstruction operations were carried out," he said. "It's a long and complicated business of removing shrapnel, repairing blood vessels in the legs with grafts from veins elsewhere in the patient's body, and reconstructing nerves."

Six patients had suffered fractures from the force of the blast and had been fitted with external fixators, with metal pins inserted in the bones and connected by metal rods to hold them in place.

The hospital, expected to complete 17 operations yesterday, nine patients were discharged, leaving 20 in hospital.

Booth: medical people not hardened to such injuries

Most of them expected to stay for several days. Westminster hospital has dealt with victims from a series of terrorist attacks and civil disasters, including the Harrods, Hyde Park and Knightsbridge IRA bombings, the King's Cross fire and the Clapham railway crash. More recently, it cared for the injured from the Carlton club bombing and the IRA mortar attack on Downing Street.

Mr Booth said: "Our surgeons have a lot of experience and expertise, but it is still very upsetting and distressing for them. Medical people don't get hardened to seeing injuries, particularly when caused in this way."

The National Association of Bereavement Services is operating a helpline with Westminster city council to offer counselling to victims of the explosion. Today, leaflets will be distributed at Victoria offering support services to anyone affected by the explosion. The helpline number is 071-930 5262.

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IRA TACTICS

Bombings indicate new direction in mainland campaign

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE combination of railway station bombings and hoax warnings yesterday marked a new departure in the IRA's campaign on the mainland.

For the first time in recent years the principle objective seems to have been to cause the maximum disruption to the largest number of people. The bombings achieved as never before what IRA leaders often describe as "creating a war situation in Britain" by disrupting the journeys of 500,000 commuters in London.

That tactic has been practised and refined over the years in Belfast, where simultaneous bomb warnings, many of them hoaxes, bring the city to a standstill about twice a month.

Last month, the IRA abandoned cars on all the bridges across the River Lagan in the city centre, on roads leading to the motorway and Lisburn and on the road to the airport. Commercial life came to a standstill for most of the day.

The objective in Northern Ireland is to demonstrate defiance of British rule and to highlight the IRA's belief that the province is being run without the consent of the people and is ungovernable. Disruption tactics are also part of the organisation's constantly changing strategy designed to spread and tie down as many members of the police and army as possible.

The deployment of this approach in Britain seems to be an attempt to convey to large numbers of people what a senior IRA commander described as the purpose of the Downing Street bombing in an interview published in Dublin last week. He said that the mortars fired by the IRA were designed to bring home to the prime minister and his cabinet "the reality of their rule [in Northern Ireland] directly to them and their conscience".

In Belfast, disruption bombings cause inconvenience and frayed tempers rather than casualties. The IRA has perfected abandoning hijacked cars and leaving bombs in shops, and the

security forces are extremely efficient at clearing large areas of the city at short notice, often driving through pedestrian areas warning people by loud speaker to leave or stay indoors and away from windows.

IRA commanders must have known that transferring the strategy to London, where the task of evacuating 11 stations would be enormous, was likely to cause civilian casualties.

It may well be that this was deliberate, the intention being that people should be killed and injured so that future bomb warnings on the mainland would leave the police no choice but to evacuate areas and cause disruption. In the IRA's terms that would be a major step towards achieving what the prime minister said he would not allow: letting "terrorists" disrupt or dictate the pace of life in the capital.

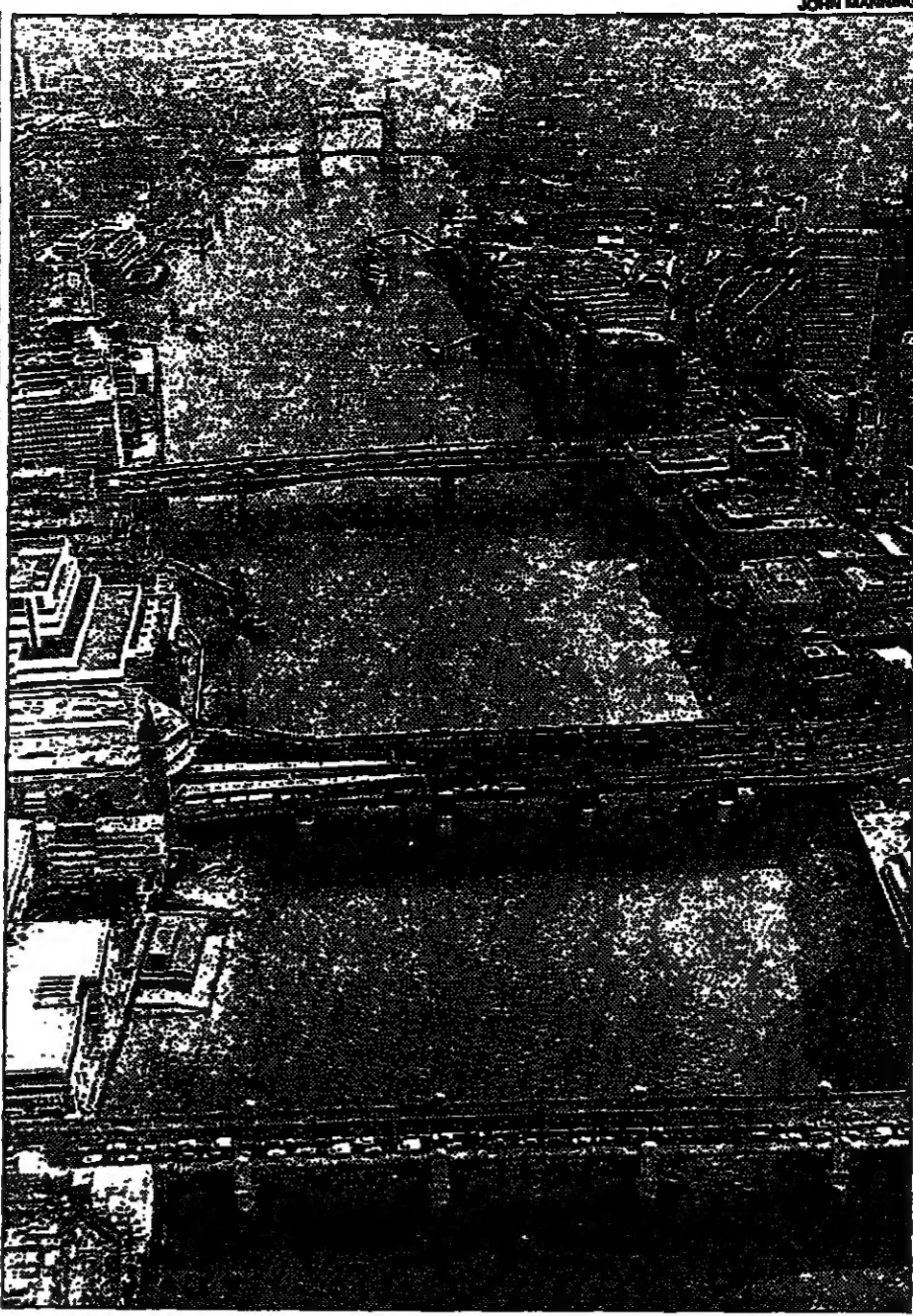
Together with the Downing Street attack, yesterday's bombings emphasise again the IRA's perception that activity on the mainland is far more beneficial in terms of media reaction than that in Northern Ireland, where security force surveillance is intense and many operations fail, are called off, or lead to arrest.

The bombings come amid

signs, according to some analysts, of a hardening of attitudes among top figures in the IRA, or possibly the emergence of a more ruthless breed of leaders apparently unconcerned at the political and presentational costs of killing civilians unconnected either with the security forces or Britain's presence in Northern Ireland.

In Belfast, the year began with a wave of fire bombings on commercial premises, which caused tens of millions of pounds of damage. It was the first time that that tactic, which was widespread in the 1970s, had been used for years in a comprehensive manner. Like random attacks on civilians, it had originally been abandoned because it was unpopular with the movement's supporters.

Another possibly significant sign was the deliberate and strong signals from members of Sinn Féin at the party's annual conference in Dublin recently, where members emphasised that they no longer wished to be called upon to justify IRA actions and seemed to be distancing themselves from the organisation. That led to speculation that they knew what the IRA was planning and were preparing their position in advance.



Off the rails: traffic jams on London bridge (top) and Southwark bridge while Cannon Street station lies silent during yesterday morning's rush hour

THE POLICE

Scotland Yard chief defends squad's record

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, was, as usual, carrying the burden of his office with apparent lightness yesterday as he fielded questions from the media at the squad's central London headquarters.

A casual observer could not have guessed that the bombs at Paddington and Victoria stations were, respectively, the 26th and 27th IRA attacks to be conducted on mainland Britain since August 1988. During that period, the branch and Mr Churchill-Coleman in particular have been subjected to some criticism about their performance against the IRA, which has struck repeatedly in spite of supposedly high levels of security.

The commander, whose bluff exterior disguises a shrewd intelligence, freely admits that the squad's record could be better. But he believes that few people outside the police or security services appreciate the difficulties of fighting organisations as ruthless and determined as the IRA.

While two IRA members were recently jailed for 30 years after being arrested in Wales last September and six other alleged members are awaiting trial before British courts, a string of mainland atrocities committed over the past 12 years remain unsolved, including the murders of the Tory MPs Airey Neave and Ian Gow and those of seven military bandmen in Regent's Park in 1982. It is

also true that some successes such as the discovery of a huge arms cache in south London in December 1988 stemmed from remarkable good luck.

However, detectives have had some notable successes, among them the capture of the bombmaker behind the attack on a cavalry troop in Hyde Park in 1982 and the man who planted the bomb that almost killed Margaret Thatcher in Brighton in 1984.

In Ulster, the police's success rate is better, but there the difficulties of gathering intelligence — the key to tackling groups such as the IRA — while still substantial are less acute than on the mainland, where it is easier for gunmen and bombers to hide within local communities. Police and other security services on the mainland also face a much broader range of terrorist threats than their counterparts across the Irish sea.

As pressure grows on the anti-terrorist branch to improve its success rate, there are new problems for Mr Churchill-Coleman, who has headed the squad for more than five years. Detectives are now all but certain that the team responsible for many of the attacks conducted since August 1988, when the IRA resumed its mainland campaign, has been replaced by another, more powerfully armed cell. That team, which police believe carried out the mortar bomb strike against Downing Street and yesterday's bombings, is plainly determined to be more audacious and, on yesterday's evidence, less scrupulous in its targeting.

The commander, whose name appeared on an IRA hit-list found two years ago, believes it is vital that the government and the police respond in a firm but measured manner to the IRA's latest mainland campaign.

Far more reflective than his stolid image would suggest, he remains deeply sceptical of demands for greater police powers. "The IRA want us to overreact and to panic," he said in a recent interview. "But with professional policing and the help of the public, this campaign will be defeated."



Churchill-Coleman: "IRA want us to overreact"

POLITICAL REACTION

Prescott urges higher priority for rail security

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, wrote last night to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, asking what actions were taken after the warnings to prevent further trains entering main-line London stations and to prevent potential injury to passengers.

Mr Prescott released figures showing that the number of British Transport police, responsible for security on station concourses, had been reduced from 1,842 in 1982 to 1,488 in 1989-90 and called for the numbers to be restored. In his letter he asked how

many police were available to search stations.

He urged the transport department to set up a conference with British Rail and other interested parties to discuss how inconvenience to travellers could be minimised in dealing with emergencies like yesterday's bombings.

Mr Prescott, who will meet Mr Rifkind at the Commons this afternoon to demand a higher priority for measures to counter such incidents, told Mr Rifkind in his letter that he would want to know when the British Transport police and the transport department were

informed of any early warnings about a potential terrorist threat at London stations.

Mr Prescott had earlier called for a Commons statement on the transport aspects of the bomb attacks but Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, had agreed with the government that there should be no statement to MPs. It was felt that it would have merely boosted the bombers.

Politicians in all parties condemned the attacks. After discussing the incidents with the prime minister, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that he was "appalled and

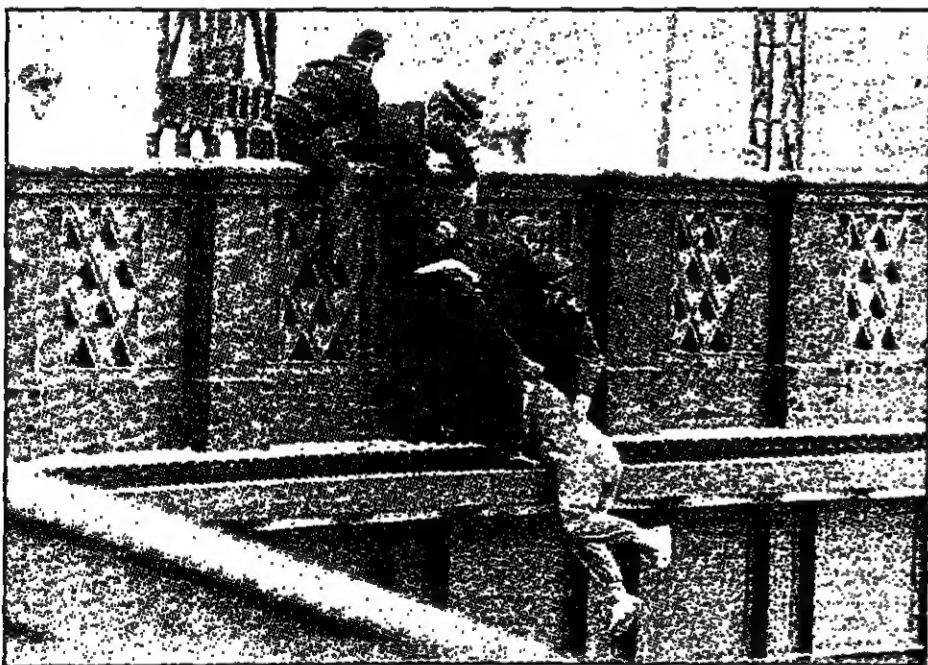
disgusted by this vicious attack on innocent people going to their work". He added: "The concourse of Victoria station is covered in blood. This is the act of murderous criminals."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that the bomb attack was "vicious, cowardly and futile" but the British people would not be bombed into submission.

The Labour leader Neil Kinnock said that the bombings should not be allowed to result in additional infringements on the rhythm of life.

However, Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the backbench Northern Ireland committee, said that security measures should be stepped up.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, had been sitting on a train at Victoria bound for Gatwick airport when the bomb exploded. She later caught a flight from Heathrow to meet her commitments in the North-East. At the opening of an old peoples' unit she said: "Under no circumstances should we allow or enable terrorists to influence or affect the way in which we run our lives."



Bridge struggle: Policeman battling to prevent a young woman from falling into the Thames from Lambeth Bridge yesterday. Police rushed from Victoria station, scene of the bombing, to the bridge for the rescue

Minister extends help for those hit hard by poll tax

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA 11 million people hit hard by the poll tax are expected to benefit from a scheme announced yesterday aimed at reducing political damage to the government from this year's bills.

The new regulations give details of the government's £1.7 billion replacement for "transitional relief" plan, which helped those who had seen the sharpest rise in bills since the abolition of rates.

The renamed "community charge reduction scheme" will operate from April 1 and, according to the government, will benefit 18 million poll tax payers in nearly nine million households. It means that almost half the 37 million people liable to the charge in England and Wales might now be eligible for help in paying.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said: "Twice as many people should get help with their bills next year. Those who already qualify for transitional relief will get additional help and many people, living in properties which had a rates bill of £500 or less will be able to look

forward to three-figure reductions in their charges."

He added: "People living in sheltered housing will get help for the first time and the scheme gives extra help to the elderly and disabled people who did not pay rates."

The scheme is intended to limit to £2 a week what a two-person household would lose through the switch from rates, though, in order to preserve some accountability, it does not protect against council-imposed increases.

The scheme assumes that councils spend within government guidelines. The environment department said: "If the local authority sets a community charge level more than that assumed by the government, then the more people will pay. People will still get help from the government, but only up to a certain degree. This maintains the element of local accountability."

Last night, Labour accused Mr Heseltine of misleading the public on the scheme's impact. David Blunkett, shadow local government minister, said that it was not based

on actual poll tax bills, but on notional figures often less than the bills for 1990-91. He added that the scheme would discriminate against larger households as they would have relief based on a household of two charge payers.

Mr Heseltine's plans provide extra help for people in charitable homes and an extra £150 million extension of transitional relief for old people in sheltered housing.

The new regulations are meant to limit the amount a council can charge a household above its last rates bill. People will qualify for help if their poll tax bill is £104 or more above their last rates bill. Reductions will be calculated from the baseline of the 1989-90 rates bill plus £104, and the community charge set out by the government under its scheme or the actual charge, whichever is the lower.

A couple facing a charge bill of £500 at a house whose last rates bill was £150 would be entitled to relief of £246, or £123 each. If there are more people in the household, the relief is shared.

Cooks ask staff to take pay cut

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 7,300 staff of the Thomas Cook travel chain are being asked to take pay cuts of up to 10 per cent in an effort to beat the travel industry slump. With bookings over 40 per cent down, the company, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, said yesterday that it must cut costs by £25 million this year if widespread redundancies are to be avoided.

More than £13 million can be saved by cutting advertising and other capital expenditure, but £12 million will have to be found from the payroll, staff were told yesterday. Junior staff will lose as little as 1 per cent of salary, averaging about £13 a month, middle management 5 per cent or about £150 a month, and directors 10 per cent.

Thomas Cook, which last year made a profit of £26 million and sells holidays and business travel through 334 shops nationwide, blamed the Gulf war and the recession for the cuts, which, if effective, could save up to 300 jobs.

Staff aged over 50 are being invited to take early retirement. Others are being encouraged to take unpaid leave. Christopher Rodrigues, managing director of the Thomas Cook Group, said: "This is going to be the most challenging year anyone in this industry has ever seen. There is going to be a big shake-out within the industry, but we have been around for 150 years and intend being around for a long time yet."

"All the proposals came as a result of discussion with the staff and most of them were their ideas. We have achieved a saving of 10 per cent as a result of the management and staff working together rather than some central diktat."

Mr Rodrigues said: "I am sure that ultimately the market will come back, albeit at a different level."

Since the war began, 57 travel agencies and nine tour operators have gone out of business.

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Heseltine rejects British Coal plan for green-belt site

By CRAIG SETON

BRITISH Coal's plans for a £400 million superpit in the Midlands, which would have been one of the biggest and most advanced in Europe, were rejected on environmental grounds yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

His refusal of planning permission for the colliery at Hawkhurst Moor, in a wedge of green belt between Coventry and Birmingham, has struck a blow at British Coal's plans for an efficient industry increasingly based on highly productive superpits.

Mr Heseltine's decision followed a lengthy public enquiry two years ago at which villagers from near the proposed site gave warnings of a massive impact on the environment from subsidence, dust, noise and traffic. Those opponents were jubilant yesterday, even though Mr Heseltine said that he did not rule out future applications to mine there from British Coal. One of their leaders said: "The case for the environment has been the need for coal. The Hawkhurst Moor plan is dead for the rest of this century at least."

British Coal had claimed that no previous proposal for a mine had given so much weight to the environment. The site would have taken ten

years to develop and would have produced 4.2 million tonnes of high-quality coal a year for 40 years.

British Coal said yesterday that it was disappointed, but had not decided whether to submit a new application.

Mr Heseltine said that he agreed with Anthony Machin, the enquiry inspector, that the pit would bring substantial environmental disadvantages to its locality and a wider area. The lack of satisfactory proposals for spoil disposal, water supply, transport and the discharge of minewater were serious overriding defects.

Mr Heseltine did not rule out future applications that deal with those defects. He expected British Coal to explore more environmentally acceptable ways of extracting reserves beneath Hawkhurst Moor by getting at them from existing collieries at Keresley and Daw Mill, near Coventry, and putting associated activities on a less sensitive site.

Dr Peter Lea, leader of the opponents of the plan, said: "We are absolutely delighted. We do not think that Mr Heseltine has really left the door open for this proposal. We always said there was no space for such a pit in such a precious piece of green belt. It is only a narrow strip. Fortunately, the argument we put forward on environmental grounds was very solid. It beat the case for coal. I think the issue is dead in commercial terms, at least for the rest of this century."

Hawkhurst Moor would have been developed on a 200-acre site in the six-mile "green wedge" between Coventry and Birmingham known as the Meriden Gap. It is less than a mile from the village of Berkswell, whose inhabitants played a leading role in opposing the plan, and only a few miles from the historic town of Kenilworth. The colliery would have created 1,800 jobs.

The plans would have involved the extraction of 145 million tonnes of coal at depths of between 750 metres and 1,200 metres from the Warwickshire thick coal seam, an especially rich deposit of premium-grade coal to which scores of miners from Keresley and Daw Mill.

Dr Ken Moses, British Coal's technical director, said yesterday: "We are deeply disappointed at the result. There are many issues that require consideration and that we will be doing before deciding what the next appropriate course of action should be. One thing is certain: the coal is there and it remains a valuable national resource, as Mr Heseltine has acknowledged."

Tim Yeo, the environment minister, said that Mr Heseltine had felt that "the scale of the extraction and the associated processing facilities are such that there are substantial environmental disadvantages that at present outweigh the recognised need for coal".

Second sight: George Melly (left) and Sir Stephen Spender attend a showing at the Vanessa Devereaux gallery, west London, of 13 paintings of nudes by D.H. Lawrence, which were banned from display as obscene in 1929



Second sight: George Melly (left) and Sir Stephen Spender attend a showing at the Vanessa Devereaux gallery, west London, of 13 paintings of nudes by D.H. Lawrence, which were banned from display as obscene in 1929

Soldier fined for drink driving

A soldier who commandeered an armoured personnel carrier and drove it for 12 miles, was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £300 yesterday for drink-driving. Darren Hodge, a trooper with the 16th/5th Lancers at Lulworth, Dorset, was also fined £150 for driving the vehicle on a public road without insurance.

Dorchester magistrates were told that Hodge, aged 22, from Solihull, was over twice the drink-drive limit when stopped at a police roadblock outside the town last Tuesday.

David Bennett, for the defence, said that Hodge, who faces a court martial, was one of the few left behind when his regiment went to the Gulf. "He was desperate to rejoin his regiment," said Mr Bennett, who described Hodge as a soldier with an exemplary military record who had been in line for promotion.

Home buyers still hold back

The housing market is waiting for a return of confidence that will help pent-up demand to break through, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says in its latest survey published today.

Peter Miller, its housing market spokesman, said he hoped that last week's slight fall in interest rates would herald the start of more significant decreases "which will slowly bring confidence back". However, 40 per cent of the 138 agents in the survey said that prices had fallen in the past three months.

Chill kills birds

Last week's severe weather killed more than 1,000 wading birds at reserves on the coastline of The Wash, in Lincolnshire and Norfolk, the British Trust for Ornithology said. The biggest number of deaths was among redshank and grey plovers from Iceland and northern Siberia. Other species affected were dunlin, oyster catchers, knot and curlew.

Driver dies

A driver died yesterday when his lorry was struck by two stolen cars being raced side by side along a narrow road. Leslie Parsons, aged 51, of Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, was approaching the bend of a hill at Nuneham Courtyard, Oxfordshire, when the cars hit his lorry and sent it crashing into a public house. A couple who were asleep in the building were cut and bruised. The car drivers ran away.

Castle reprieved

Community charge payers in Clwyd will each pay an extra £1 to keep Bodelwyddan castle in county council hands. The council planned to sell the £6 million castle as its £300,000 annual running costs were considered too high. Yesterday, however, it decided to give the castle three more years to pay its way. The castle has an art gallery and museum.

Heater checked

Police have taken away a portable gas heater for examination after finding Susan Bedford, aged 18, and her daughter Katie, aged three, dead in their first floor flat at Wigginton, Staffordshire. Police said that they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the deaths.

Offence admitted

Robert Willis, a son of Cilla Black, was fined £250 and given five points by Beaconsfield magistrates for a crash in which a motorcyclist died. Willis, aged 20, admitted driving without due care when his car hit the bike near his home in Denham, Buckinghamshire.

Film industry rescue abandoned

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE government is renegeing on a £5 million rescue package for the British film industry promised by Margaret Thatcher last summer, the director of the British Film Institute said yesterday.

The money was pledged over three years as the basis of a fund to attract European money for English-language co-productions. Wilf Stevenson, the director, said: "We held a seminar at 10 Downing Street on the future of the British film industry and the offer came like a rabbit out of a hat as an alternative to the European initiative. Euroimage, a group of film makers from different countries involved in co-productions which Britain refused to join. Now the Department of Trade and Industry are saying they don't believe the co-produ-

tion fund is such a good idea after all. It appears that no money will be forthcoming. Instead Mr Stevenson is drawing up a five-year plan for a British-based European challenge to Hollywood, but it will need government backing. He expects to put proposals to Lord Heseltine, the trade minister responsible for the film industry, next month.

Mr Stevenson said: "The opportunity is there for Europe to challenge Hollywood and it has to be with English-language films, but we can't do it alone and we certainly can't do it without government commitment. We need money for British film makers to negotiate with the Europeans on co-productions within Europe, but we also need to be able to co-operate on the making of English-language films which European companies would invest

in. Subsidy makes bad movies. What we need is not subsidy but investment. In 1983 and 1984 tax concessions for investment in British films were discontinued and in 1985 the Eady Levy, a compulsory contribution to the British industry from cinema-going foreign films, was abolished.

The film institute's scheme will include fiscal alternatives to subsidy to encourage investment; a restructuring of the film industry to bring together distributors and film makers in this country; a film exporting operation on the lines of Uni-France which would need government start-up funding; and a United Kingdom Screen Commission which would encourage the use of UK locations.

Mr Stevenson said: "We are in danger of losing our film industry altogether. If we

don't have one in this country we will be living other people's myths. Cinema audiences know much more about how the police department of Los Angeles works than they ever could about Scotland Yard."

British film makers and actors are among the world's most sought-after, with an average of 30 per cent of Oscars coming to Britain. Overseas income for British performances in films and television has risen from £99 million in 1983 to £145 million in 1988, while earnings from UK-produced films have dropped from £109 million to £85 million.

The aim is to put the British industry back on an international footing in time for the centenary celebrations of cinema. The first paying cinema audience was in Paris in December 1895. The first in Britain was in February 1896.

Census security gets clean bill of health

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

GOVERNMENT plans to keep this year's census information confidential have been given a clean bill of health after an independent investigation by the British Computer Society.

In a report published yesterday as part of a government white paper, the society says that the information is as proof against computer hackers, unscrupulous businessmen and investigative journalists as can be contrived.

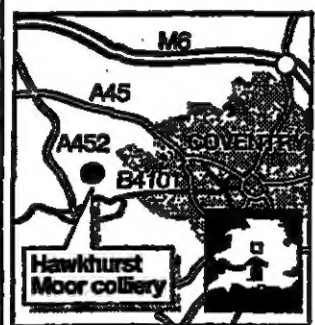
The society report says that the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys attaches great importance to confidentiality and security. The review team found a "strong sense of commitment to that responsibility and considerable pride in the census office's unblemished record of maintaining confidentiality".

The report asserts that the data held in the main database will not contain the name or full address of any individual or household. The census offices told the review team that they would not connect the computer holding census data to any public network that might enable hackers to

find their way into it. The society says that even if someone circumvented the access controls on the census data, they would learn nothing unless they gained access simultaneously to other secure files in the system or to documentation held in strict security. The possibility of evading the controls, simultaneously gaining other information and finding records with sufficiently distinctive characteristics to allow personal identification were so improbable that further safeguards were not warranted.

However, the report says that protection for source documents and computer data is adequate only if cleaning and security staff are employed directly by the census office. It was surprised that the government was considering employing contractors for security and cleaning procedures at input processing centres.

The report also calls for automatic screening or random baggage searching at the central processing office and input stations as a further safeguard against unauthorised abstraction of magnetic media.



Scientists seek breast cancer gene

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFECTIVE genes suspected of causing breast cancer in some women are being sought by British scientists as part of an international study of families at risk of inheriting the disease.

Clusters of the disease in families account for 5-10 per cent of the 24,500 cases of breast cancer discovered each year in Britain. About 20 British families are helping

scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund to track down the genes.

Nigel Spurr, head of the fund's human genetic resources laboratory at Clare Hall, Hertfordshire, said yesterday that each woman in the families had a 50 per cent chance of inheriting one of the genes. "Soon we may be able to tell who has it and who has not. Women who have not can be reassured, and those at high risk can be monitored from a young age to maximise the chance of detecting cancer at the earliest possible stage."

Once a faulty gene had been isolated, a better understanding of the more common, non-inherited forms of breast cancer should emerge. Comparisons of the normal and abnormal gene should show how the healthy version is transformed by cancer-causing chemicals in the environment.

"Ultimately it may be possible to devise drugs which block the effects of the damaged gene," Dr Spurr said.

Fifteen cancer research teams in Europe, America and Japan are collaborating to try to isolate the genes. The research fund and the Cancer Research Campaign are providing data from studies of high-risk families.

A total of 15,000 women from such families will be invited to take part in the world's first breast cancer prevention trial of its kind. For five years, half will be given a daily dose of tamoxifen, a drug that appears to have protective effects against the disease, and the other 7,500 will be given a daily placebo. All will receive six-monthly health checks. The researchers want women

volunteers, aged 35 to 65, who have had a close relative suffer from the disease.

The £4 million trial, carried out by the two British research groups, the Medical Research Council and the health department, aims to show whether the drug, a well-established treatment for breast cancer, can prevent the onset of the disease. Fifteen hospitals in the UK will participate.

Although the trial will run for five years, it will be closer to ten years before the researchers are able to assess the preventive effects of tamoxifen. Jack Cuzick, a research fund epidemiologist who proposed the study eight years ago, said: "We agonised for a long time over whether it was right to give thousands of women a drug every day for five years, but tamoxifen is one of the safest around."

Freud slips out of favour in latest expert analysis

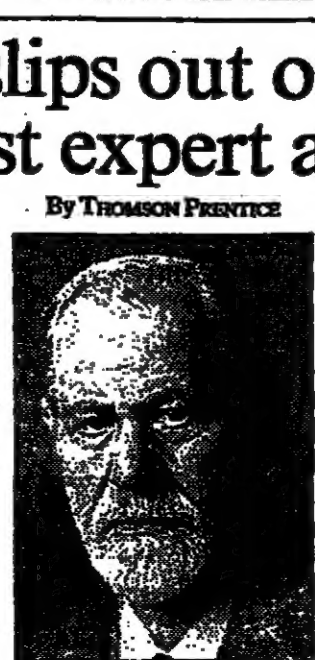
By THOMSON PRENTICE

THE theories of Sigmund Freud, father of psychoanalysis, have been debunked by a new group of critics who have dissected his work. Even the classic Freudian slip might not have any real psychological meaning, one of his opponents said yesterday.

Freud has recently been the target of American psychiatrists who argue that mental illness has a physical basis and should be treated with powerful drugs. The latest attack comes mostly from academics, who allege that Freud worked in an unscientific way and doctored his own results.

Freud, who died in 1939 at the age of 83, made exaggerated claims of cures, jumped to conclusions based on inadequate evidence, and ignored basic principles of scientific research, say the experts, who presented their studies to the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Washington yesterday.

Their conclusions will upset many Americans who spend large amounts of time and money on the psychoanalyst's couch. The analysts are not likely to be grateful either. "The kind of evidence we have is extremely critical of Freud," Frank Sulloway, professor of science history at



Freud: "All talking cures, but no scientific evaluation"

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said.

Freud built a pillar of the concept of psychoanalysis on six case histories describing a "talking cure" for the mentally ill or anxious. Professor Sulloway said, however, that recent research had discredited most of the cases. "They are rampant with censorship, distortions, highly dubious reconstructions and exaggerated clinical claims," he said. "One involved a patient who fled therapy in disgust, two actually were not treated by Freud, and another involved no real therapy."

One of the two patients Freud claimed to have cured was interviewed years later, and the cure was found to be "a complete misrepresentation of the facts", Professor Sulloway said. Much of Freud's theories were based on outmoded assumptions from the 19th century. "Freudian psychoanalysis is not a science. It's like a religion," Morris Eagle, a psychologist at York University, near Toronto, said. "Freudian psychoanalysis has never been subjected to the rigorous evaluation of controlled studies that were routine in other branches of science and medicine."

Adolf Grunbaum, a philosophy of science scholar at Pittsburgh university, said even the famous Freudian slip might not be real. Freud never proved that the inadvertent slip really betrayed a suppressed psychological meaning, he said. "Nobody knows if there are Freudian slips."

Dorothy Rowe, chairman of the British Psychological Society's psychotherapy section, said: "There are strict Freudians who will not tolerate any criticisms of him. Others, like myself, have developed our own ideas from some of his, and discarded other bits of his work. But I still believe in the Freudian slip."

Elderly in care 'suffer debt fear'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE gap between levels of income support and the fees charged by residential care homes is causing elderly people unacceptable anxiety and hardship, according to a report published by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux today.

The report says the situation is being exacerbated by the delay in the implementation of community care which has been put off until 1993. Although benefit levels are due to be updated this April, the increase is less than the rate of inflation.

Ann Abraham, the association's chief executive, said: "It is unacceptable that people, at this time in their lives, should be subjected to unnecessary distress and worries about accumulating debts."

When debts piled up, residents had to find cheaper homes or face eviction. "Such experiences can have disastrous consequences for the health of frail elderly people," the report says.

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Freud slips out of favour in latest expert analysis

By THOMSON PRENTICE

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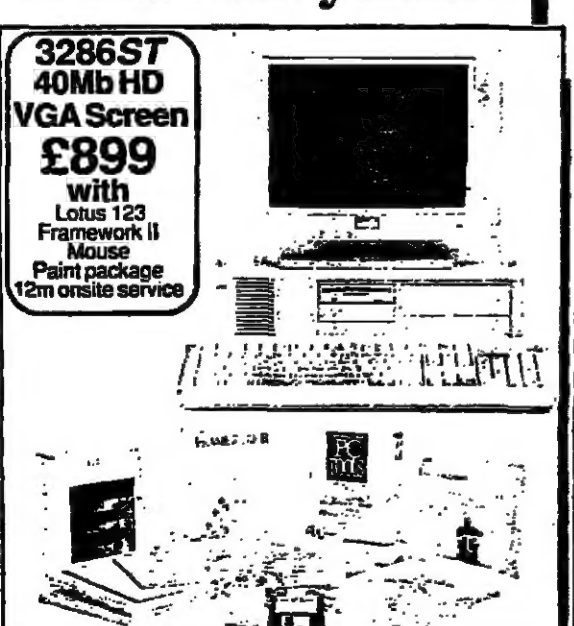
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Ministers to increase aid for 'absent father orders'

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

THE government is to give extra help to employers who operate a scheme to dock money from the pay packets of absent fathers, John Patten, the home office minister, indicated in the Commons last night.

He was moving the second reading of the bill that gives the courts new powers to force absent parents to pay maintenance for their children and to order the money to be deducted from their earnings from the start.

"We are urgently looking at increasing the administrative charge which employers can deduct when complying with an order", he said during

debate on the Maintenance Enforcement bill.

He said that consultations were in progress with the CBI and others about the cost to employers who can now claim 50p in administration costs.

He was pressed by, Stuart Randall, Labour's spokesman, to increase the administrative payment. Employers, Mr Randall said, were suggesting that the true cost would be £10.

Mr Patten said: "What I hope will be the case is that during the passage of the bill I will be in a position to make an announcement about trying to help industry and business in this way."

He said that the purpose of the bill was to improve the collection and enforcement of maintenance in England and Wales by giving new powers to the courts to ensure regular payments.

"Far too many people who are obliged to pay maintenance avoid their responsibility. They do so in a cold and calculating way. They do it as long as possible. They play the maintenance avoidance system with considerable cleverness, with exceptional aptitude."

There were 80,000 enforcement actions in the courts in 1989, but many were abortive because debtors avoided paying arrears until the last possible moment.

The bill would allow courts to order the paying of maintenance payments by attachment of earnings or to order the debtor to open a bank account so as to pay by standing order.

"It is not as draconian as it might first appear. It is a vital provision if we are to prevent some debtors playing the system by dictating themselves, as at present, the method by which they will pay."

A fine of up to £1,000 could be made if a person failed to pay by the particular method specified by the court.

Mr Randall said that he supported the aim of the bill to improve enforcement of maintenance and the principle of courts being able to make attachment-of-income orders.

In practical terms, however, the bill had some deficiencies.



Snow help only if needed

The government will consider giving extra financial help to any local council that has suffered an undue financial burden as a result of the recent bad weather, Michael Portillo, local government minister, said in a written reply. However, he said, present information did not suggest that spending would have exceeded that for which prudent authorities would have budgeted.

County Hall

The government has rejected a suggestion to house the homeless at County Hall, headquarters of the former Greater London Council. In a Commons written reply, Tim Yeo, environment under secretary, said that the London Residuary Body was preparing to dispose of County Hall and to use it for the homeless would not be consistent with its statutory duty.

Candidate

The Liberal Democrats said that Andrew Duff, of Cambridge, will stand against the prime minister in the Huntingdon constituency in the general election. John Major has the biggest majority of any Conservative MP.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; prime minister. Debates on Opposition motions on the poll tax and on manufacturing industry.
Lords (2.30): Planning and Compensation bill, report, first day.

Election will wait until war ends, Patten says

By RONALD FAUX

CHRIS Patten, Conservative party chairman, said yesterday that a date for the next general election would not be considered while there was war in the Gulf.

Speaking in the Ribbles Valley by-election campaign, he said that encouraging speculation that might railroad the government into a decision would not be in the national interest. Mr Patten commented on weekend speculation about an early election after several polls gave the Conservatives a lead over Labour by as much as seven points.

Mr Patten made clear that the government was drawing up plans for the next general election campaign. Speaking in support of Nigel Evans, the Tory candidate, he said: "I want us to fight a positive campaign, not only in by-elections and in local elections, but in the general election whenever that may come." The contest would be fought on the government's record and on its future programme, on such issues as the health service and education reforms and the successful efforts being made to bring down and hold down inflation. "That positive campaigning starts here in the Ribbles Valley", he said.

Nigel Evans focused on the government's action to



Patten: Government already preparing plans

ease the impact of the community charge, a measure that has created much hostility in the Ribbles Valley area and that has proved a vulnerable area for the Tories despite the 19,500 majority they are defending. He said that the relief scheme would help eight in ten people in the constituency when their community charge bills arrived in April. The worst affected would be protected from the effects of the high-spending, Labour-controlled Lancashire county council, he added. A leaflet issued by the Tories puzzled some people in Clitheroe with its disclosure that two people sharing

Breath test fight begins

By ROGER WOOD

A FRESH attempt to give the police power to conduct random breath tests is being made by an all-party group of MPs. Their proposed amendment to the Road Traffic bill would provide for random tests at designated roadside checkpoints authorised by a senior police officer.

The bill is on its way through Parliament and two similar amendments were proposed and then withdrawn earlier. MPs believe that the new clause will have a better

chance of success if it is introduced at the bill's report stage when it can be considered by the whole House.

Random breath testing is official Labour Party policy, but the latest attempt comes from the all-party parliamentary advisory council for transport safety.

Stephen Day, Conservative MP for Cheadle and co-chairman of the advisory council, said yesterday: "This power provides the police with a highly visible means of deterring the drinking driver."

The Liberal Democrats, whose candidate Michael Carr took second place at the last election, attacked the promises of widespread relief from the charge. "People are a lot more sceptical and a lot more intelligent than simply taking this at its face value", Archie Kirkwood, campaign manager, said.

The same doubt was echoed by Josie Harrington, the Labour candidate. The relief was based on some notional figure set up by the government. There would be some softening of the impact, but not enough, she said.

Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, told a Labour party press conference that it was a sad commentary on John Major's Britain that, although the country took pride in the skill of the RAF, the people who built the Tornado aircraft at the British Aerospace works in Lancashire faced dismissal. About 3,000 jobs were to go at the company's Presto works with an even more serious knock-on effect for industry throughout the Northwest.

General election: D.C. Waddington (C), 30,136; M. Carr (SDF/All), 10,608; G. Pope (Lab), 8,781. C maj: 19,528.



Crossing frontiers: Norma Major (left) and the prime minister with President and Mrs Zhelev of Bulgaria when the two men met at 10 Downing Street for talks yesterday

Peers fear 'American' damages

By JOHN WINDER

PEERS expressed fears yesterday that damages for injuries and illness caused to patients by medical treatment might rise towards the levels experienced in America. The Lord Chancellor may ask the Law Commission to enquire into the question of medical damages.

Lady Hooper, junior health minister, said in the House of Lords that she had been discussing the possibility of an enquiry.

Earlier, she was cheered by some peers when she told Viscount Hanworth (Lib Dem) that the government was taking no action to restrict claims for cases of medical negligence and compensation in the light of the size of recent claims in some countries.

Viscount Hanworth said that at all costs they should avoid going down the road taken by the Americans where damages were so big that doctors' fees were now probably 40 per cent higher than they otherwise would have been because of the necessary insurance.

Lady Hooper said the government did not expect to see the American experience replicated in the United King-

dom because here the scale of damages was the result of careful computation of damages by a presiding judge so as to cover the precise damage and its implications.

Lord Nagesh of Guildford (C) said that there was a danger that surgeons' and consultants' fees in Britain would escalate unless something serious was done to check present trends in dam-

ages. In America, about a third of doctors' fees went in insurance bonds to try to protect them. "There is a tendency in British courts for damages to escalate and the government should take effective action to check the trend."

Lady Hooper replied that the government was aware of the need to take effective action and it was being taken.

Lord Ennals, Opposition

spokesman on health, said that the present situation was a sort of lottery. Most cases did not proceed to court and that argued the case for some sort of no-fault liability system that was fair to all and did not discriminate.

Lady Hooper replied that no-fault compensation was not straightforward, nor an easy option. Patients would still have to prove causation.

Prices watchdog may allow 13% electricity rises

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's electricity supply watchdog, the Office of Electricity Regulation, may allow electricity price rises this year of up to 13 per cent which are likely to be claimed by the regional power companies in the first price-setting round since their privatisation last year.

This clear indication was given yesterday by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the office's director-general. It is likely to be seen as a considerable coup by the regional companies, and will be sharply criticised by the Labour party.

Labour party leaders pressed John Wakeham, the energy secretary, for a statement yesterday on electricity price rises after suggestions that the privatised regional companies are likely to press for consumer tariff increases this year of up to 13 per cent.

Professor Littlechild wrote to chairmen of the electricity consumers' committees, local bodies responsible for advising him on customer problems, making clear that it was possible that price increases at such a level would be within the statutory formulae that govern price-setting in the industry. He confirmed that he had not yet received any notification of proposed tariff changes from the regional companies. They have to submit their maximum proposed prices to his office by early March, 28 days before the price rises are due to come into effect, on April 1.

Because of that, he could

not say whether the suggested prices would come within the price controls. He said, however: "I should warn you that it is quite possible that price increases approaching the magnitudes mentioned in the press would be within these constraints."

He added that if the companies' licensing conditions were breached, over prices or any issue, he had powers to take legal action and "in those circumstances I should not hesitate to require the companies to reduce their price increases".

Professor Littlechild said that all his office was required to do was to ensure that the price formulae were being observed.

Leading article, page 11

Slick 'best left alone'

ANY attempt to clean up the oil slick in the Bristol Channel rather than leave it to degrade naturally would do more harm than good, Tony Baldry, environment under secretary, said in a written reply.

Mr Baldry said that the slick resulted from a 20-ton spillage from Llanwrn steelworks. There were reports of up to 100 lightly oiled birds. The slick did not appear to have harmed important wild life sites, although there might be some short-term damage.



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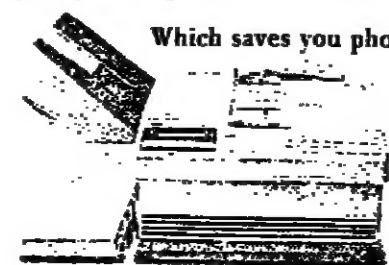
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Opening scenes of land battle are already being played out

THE allied land offensive has really already begun. The armoured and airborne divisions may not have advanced en masse across the "startline" into Kuwait. But the first phase of the ground campaign was initiated at least 72 hours ago, when hundreds of artillery pieces, from M109s to the new multiple-launch rocket systems, were moved to within range of the Iraqi positions and started firing. Minesweepers have also been deployed for the first time into the northern end of the Gulf to start clearing mines for an amphibious assault.

The reports by allied military briefers of "skirmishes" and "probing" have lulled the public into believing that the current series of artillery and helicopter-borne attacks are merely dress rehearsals for the real thing, almost like the last training exercise before battle commences. Into this so-called rehearsal period has now been thrown the last-minute revised script, written by President Saddam Hussein, in which a putative withdrawal scenario has been suggested.

In fact, this is not a rehearsal. We are now watching the opening scenes of General Norman Schwarzkopf's ground battle plan, the key element of which is the rapidly increasing presence of allied artillery close to the Kuwaiti border. The Schwarzkopf script calls for a firepower momentum which will rise to a peak of such intensity that only the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait will prevent the rest of the plan, including an armoured thrust, an amphibious assault

and an airborne attack, from being played out. Saddam has perhaps 48 hours or less to convince Washington that he is not just playing for time. By then the tempo of allied military operations will have reached a point of no return. Once the main assault has begun, it may be too late for diplomacy. There must have come a moment last week when Saddam realised this, which is why the statement from the Revolutionary Command Council last Friday was an important indicator of what was in the Iraqi leader's mind.

For the first time, he appeared to be saying that he did not want to face "the mother of all battles" after all. In his game plan, the land battle was to have been his *pièce de résistance*, the moment when he could show the world how tough his troops were, and how determined they were to hold on to Kuwait, or the 19th province, as it is called by Baghdad. While that plan remained realistic, it was in his interests to bring the allied land campaign forward as early as possible.

For the same reason it was in the allies' best interests to postpone the ground battle for as long as possible, until the odds had been changed in their favour. This is where Saddam seriously miscalculated. He never envisaged that the air campaign would go on for so long and that it would inflict so much damage. Even two weeks ago, he would have been happy to join battle. But now the odds are against him and he knows it. He has let his forces know it, too, by announcing to the world that he is ready to give up the 19th province. So why should Iraqi soldiers, cowering under the latest onslaught from across the border, lay down their lives for a piece of territory which has effectively been relinquished by their commander-in-chief?

Even a chemical or nerve gas attack on Israel may no longer seem an attractive option. If Saddam is trying to save himself from military and political defeat, it would be an act of suicide to provoke the Israelis into a massive retaliatory attack. At the beginning of the war it would have made more sense because any revenge by Israel, especially if it had taken the form of a chemical attack on Baghdad, could have persuaded Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries to join him in waging war on Israel. But Saddam clearly decided it was too great a gamble. He chose, instead, the softer option of launching ballistic missiles with conventional warheads on Israel.

Now it is too late. The momentum of the allied ground campaign has gone too far. Even without the Syrian and Egyptian armoured divisions, the American, British, French, Saudi Arabian and Gulf Co-operation Council contribution to the offensive should be sufficient to overwhelm the depleted Iraqi forces. But there is little reason to believe that either Egypt or Syria would abandon the anti-Saddam cause at this stage.

One added concern for Saddam: if peace broke out tomorrow, he would still face an Israeli strike. The Israeli government has vowed that it would retaliate for the Saudi attacks "at a time of its own choosing".

The momentum of allied military actions is rapidly reaching a point of no return, rendering Iraq's belated diplomacy ineffectual, Michael Evans writes

DIPLOMACY

Psychology of the souk puts allies in a quandary

By MICHAEL BENYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Soviet peace proposals and Iraq's insistence that it is ready to negotiate a withdrawal from Kuwait have left the West in a quandary. While both Washington and London insisted again yesterday that Iraq still attached unacceptable conditions to its offer, Soviet diplomacy made it harder to dismiss what appears to be an opening step in the tortuous process towards negotiations.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, brushed aside suggestions that the Iraqis had shown more flexibility than the West had first recognised. He told the House of Commons that Arab coalition partners had also promptly dismissed the Baghdad radio broadcast, and there was no ambiguity about the meaning of the text. The offer, he said, was no more than an attempt to divide the coalition.

But reactions to yesterday's announcement that Moscow had handed over a peace plan were more guarded. British officials refused to concede that Mr Gorbachev could have offered much beyond a bland restatement of the principles of the United Nations resolution.

President Bush said he needed more information about the plan before responding. The White House said it was pinning its hopes on the military operations.

United Nations Britain and Iraq join verbal duel

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE continuing private meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the Gulf war has developed into something of a sparring match between Britain and Iraq. Official transcripts of the three sessions so far reveal the British and Iraqi ambassadors trading punches, sometimes in a most undiplomatic way.

Television and radio reporters are regretting that Britain was able to prevail in its struggle to have the meeting held behind closed doors.

Dr Abdul Amir al-Anbani, the Iraqi envoy, opened his remarks to the last council session on Saturday by describing the assembled ambassadors as "liars, pygmies and hypocrites", according to a transcript released yesterday. He attended the meeting to address a series of questions posed by Sir David Hannay, the British ambassador, at an earlier session.

In answer to Sir David's demand that Iraq spell out its position on immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, Dr al-Anbani tried to turn the tables on his British counterpart by calling in aid the very security council resolution Iraq has so long rejected.

Dr al-Anbani then posed his own list of questions for Britain: Was Britain observing the Geneva conventions on the protection of civilians by its "indiscriminate bombing"? Why did Britain block medical shipments to Iraq even though they are exempt from sanctions? Had Britain observed a non-binding UN resolution barring attacks on nuclear facilities? Did Britain take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of radiation when it attacked Iraqi nuclear plants?

Sir David promised to answer those questions when the debate resumes today. He did, however, welcome the Iraqi ambassador's assurance that his government would respect the Geneva conventions on prisoners of war.



Table talk: Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, left, meeting President Gorbachev in Moscow yesterday to hear the outline of a peace proposal which he has taken back to Baghdad. With Mr Gorbachev are Yegor Gerasimov, his special envoy, second left, and Alexander Rumyantsev, his foreign minister.

WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 33

ALLIED FORCES

More than 80,000 missiles flown since January 17. US intelligence estimates that 15 per cent of Iraq's forces in Kuwait have been killed or wounded. Allied helicopters rescued an American pilot 40 miles inside Iraqi-held territory after he bailed out of his F16 fighter. US and British forces captured a 83 Iraqi in past two days.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

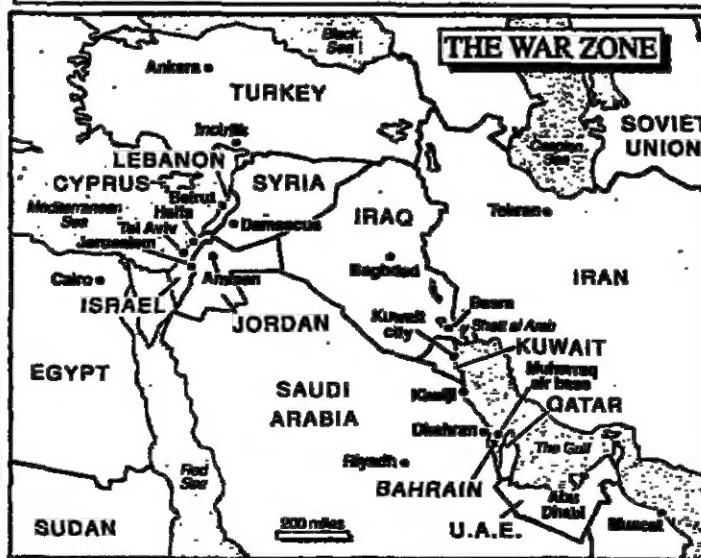
Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council, passed on 2 August, condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and calls for an unconditional withdrawal and negotiations. Resolution 678 authorised Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and its government's restoration.

IRAQI FORCES

Iraq claimed its forces had inflicted heavy casualties on frontline allied troops with barrages of field missiles. Baghdad radio claimed that four allied planes had been shot down. It reported 150 air raids on Iraq troops in past 24 hours and 25 on civilian targets. It warned allied troops that Iraq's "all-powerful weapons will explode in their faces".

IRAQI WAR AIMS

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MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER

FINANCE

Saudis forced to borrow billions

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, and host to more than 300,000 allied soldiers, has been forced to borrow money for the first time in more than 30 years to help cover the spiralling war costs and falling oil revenues.

Details of the loan, understood to be about \$3.6 billion (£1.9 billion) over a three-year period, have been kept secret because the issue is extremely sensitive in a conservative, Muslim state where the payment or receipt of interest is forbidden under Islamic law.

According to senior bankers in Riyadh, a group of nine banks led by the giant Morgan Guaranty in the United States arranged the loan at an interest rate of half a percentage point above the London interbank offered rate - unusually high for a loan to a government.

News of the loan, confirmed yesterday by Mohammed Ali Alabtain, the finance and national economy minister, came as a shock to important contributors to Operation Desert Storm, such as Britain and France, which had been looking to the Saudis to meet a greater proportion of the escalating cost of the conflict.

Churches call for ceasefire

Sydney - Demands for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the Gulf war, plus the continuation of sanctions against South Africa, will be made when the World Council of Churches (WCC) ends its seventh assembly in Canberra tomorrow (Robert Cockburn writes).

Two weeks of highly charged debate, set against fierce military action in the Gulf, has produced a strong anti-war mood among the majority of 300 international church leaders attending. The council in particular wants to see the United Nations take back control of the Gulf war and never again allow individual member nations or groups to be given responsibility for the resolution of conflicts.

US ships mined

Washington - Iraq inflicted its first damage on US naval vessels yesterday when two ships struck mines. An American military spokesman said the cruiser Princeton was operating at half power. The helicopter landing ship Tripoli suffered some flooding.

Barrage begins

London - British artillery units have fired their first shots in anger. The guns included the new multiple-launch rocket systems, which destroyed three Iraqi tanks, three guns and three gun positions. No Iraqi counter artillery fire "fell within earshot".

Envoy goes home

Paris - Iraq's ambassador here, Abdul Razzak al-Hashimi, returned to Baghdad yesterday after the rupture of diplomatic ties with France. He said one diplomat would remain to represent Iraq's interests, but French officials could not confirm this.

India hedges bets

Delhi - Chandra Shekhar, the Indian prime minister, reversed earlier comments yesterday and said he had not banned the refuelling of Gulf-bound American aircraft "as yet". He added: "We have not stopped it, but it is not taking place."

Watches stopped

Paris - Customs officers who tightened security at French airports because of the Gulf war have as a result seized 22,174 fake Cartier watches hidden in trunks bound for Cameroon, Benin and Togo and labelled as containing sewing machines. (Reuters)

Saddam shows penchant for tearing up deals

THE only significant parallel in President Saddam Hussein's past conduct with his present offer to withdraw from Kuwait is the Algiers agreement of March 1975. After fighting Kurdish guerrillas in the north for 12 months, which took the Iraqi army to the point of collapse, Saddam met the Shah of Iran at an Opec conference in the Algerian capital and made a number of humiliating concessions to Tehran over navigational rights in the Shatt al-Arab waterway in exchange for Iran cutting off aid to the Kurds.

In September 1980, when the shah was overthrown and Iran was weakened by the Islamic revolution, Saddam announced that he had torn up the agreement with the shah because he had signed it "when Iraq was weak".

A lesser parallel had occurred in 1970, when he agreed to grant a measure of autonomy to the Kurds, allowing them to have five ministers in the Baghdad government. Then as his army grew strong with Soviet weaponry and training, he violated the agreement. Saddam expelled large numbers of Kurds from Kirkuk and settled Arabs in their place. By March

1974, he was ready to go to war with the Kurds and did so. Halfway through the eight-year war with Iran, Saddam was again in a weak position and was prepared to strike another deal with Tehran to revive the Algiers agreement. But the new rulers in Iran had learnt their lesson and declined any mediation, including that undertaken by Olof Palme, the late prime minister of Sweden. However, Iraq's subsequent acquisition of chemical weapons and long-range artillery forced Iran to agree to a ceasefire.

Today, Saddam finds himself at the most precarious point in his career. His navy has been destroyed, his air force has been forced into hiding, his Scud missiles have brought him nothing but the contempt of the world, and two-thirds of his army, which the allies say still remains in place, is being obliterated. The possibility must now be that the estimated 500,000 Iraqi soldiers deployed in Kuwait and southern Iraq may surrender to Saudi forces and their "imperialist masters" over the next few days.

The contemplation of such a scenario must be worrying every member of Saddam's ruling Baath party to the core. Some have reportedly gone into hiding already to escape lynch mobs. Clearly, any accommodation with Washington that would allow Saddam to keep even a fifth of his army is preferable to such a fate. The dictator can live without a "face", but he cannot live without an army.

Hazhir Teimourian

IRAQ

Saddam uses peace talks to secure home front

FROM MARIE COLVIN IN BAGHDAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR President Saddam Hussein, the peace initiative launched by Tariq Aziz, his foreign minister, has a vital secondary goal quite apart from the talks in Moscow. The proposal will help to secure his home front.

Saddam has always understood the psychology of his people. They have grown increasingly concerned at the systematic destruction of the country's infrastructure. Allied planes have bombed bridges, roads, telecommunications centres and civilian ministries.

As far as most Iraqis were concerned, the initiative last week meant that Saddam had offered to withdraw from Kuwait. Overnight, the mood on the street changed. At 3pm on Friday, after the surprise announcement on Baghdad radio, men stopped their cars, pulled out Kalashnikovs and fired into the air, thinking the war was over. A security man in front of the al-Rashid hotel emptied his pistol into the air.

But Washington's summary rejection of the offer convinced many Iraqis that the

Americans wanted nothing less than the destruction of Iraq, and Kuwait was just a ruse to start the war.

In Saluja, a poor town 30 miles from Baghdad, where the main street was bombed last Wednesday during a British air strike, sentiment was strong. "The Americans are liars," said Majid Nouman, a shopkeeper aged 20, sorting through the rubble of his clothing store. "Now it is clear the Americans don't want to liberate Kuwait. They want to destroy Iraq. What choice do we have but to fight to the last drop of our blood?"

In the town, there was no evidence that American allegations of Iraqi officials damaging buildings were true; the main market street appeared to have been the target of a missile, as the residents said. Mr Nouman said that the planes came when the market was at its most crowded. People were buying fresh vegetables while traders hawked the new necessities of life: batteries, paraffin lamps and candles. One missile hit the al-Wada bridge first, a second then crashed into the market.

"I heard the voice of the planes, then I saw an explosion and heat pushed me inside my shop," Mr Nouman said. "When I came out, bodies covered with blood were all over the streets." Town officials estimate about 50 people died in the attack.

In an uncensored report from Amman after leaving Baghdad, Alan Little, the BBC's correspondent, reported that there is a strong desire among the civilian population to end the war. He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that the announcement of the peace plan brought scenes of unrestrained "joy and delight" to Baghdad residents.

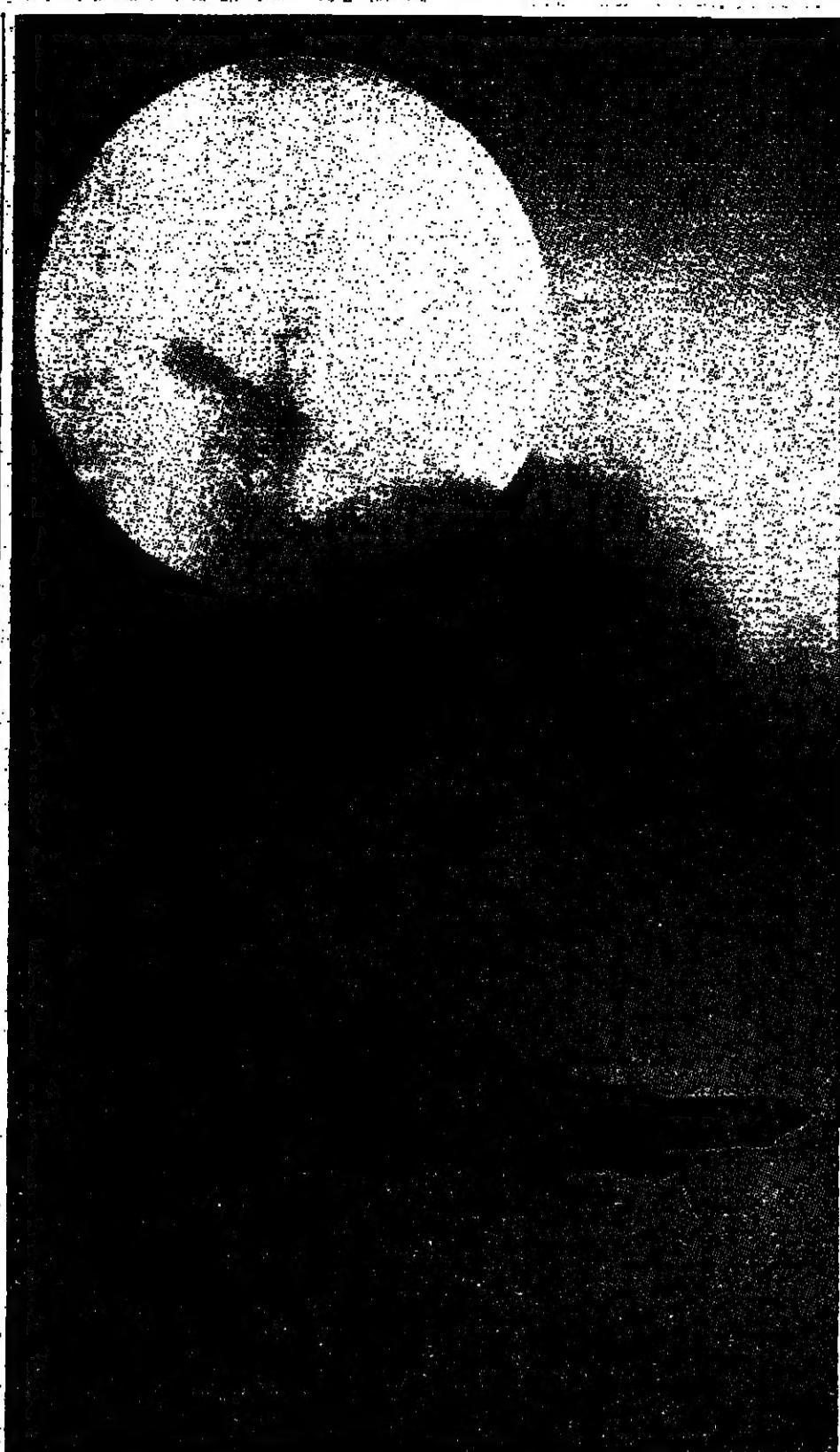
He said: "There were some women in their hotels, some catering, and cleaning staff who bounded down the stairs singing and shouting and I think they were the most selling, most revealing few minutes that I have seen at any time in Iraq. At that time, people thought that war was over and the end of the war had been occasioned by an unconditional withdrawal."

"Now if the ordinary people of Iraq are expressing delight at an unconditional withdrawal, I think that says something about the underlying feeling of the people."

"For a moment, it was as though the curtain was drawn back and we saw what lies beyond that kind of publicly stated hostility to the Americans. There was delight at the idea that the war was coming to an end, delight at the idea that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait," he said.

● **NICOSIA:** Allied aircraft are dropping leaflets on southern Iraqi cities, urging residents to leave their homes, the Iranian news agency, Iran, said yesterday. It reported that the leaflets, some of which blew to Iranian border cities, bore pictures of a rocket and people fleeing bombardment with an Arabic-language warning that residents should leave to avoid being hit. (Reuters)

(The report by Marie Colvin was compiled under Iraqi censorship)



ROYAL AIR FORCE

Faulty bomb fell on Iraqi town

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

A BOMB malfunctioned, rather than the failure of the laser-guided bombing system used by Tornados and Buccaneers in tandem, caused the bombing of the market town of Fallujah, in which Iraq said up to 130 people died, an RAF detachment commander said.

Group Captain David Henderson expressed regret about any civilian casualties when the bomb malfunctioned and missed its target, a bridge on a main supply line.

"If, as reported by the Iraqis, that caused civilian casualties we deeply regret that. As far as we were concerned the bridge was a legitimate military target and the line of attack was chosen so as to avoid any possible collateral damage or civilian casualties."



Henderson: deep regrets for civilian casualties

ties in the town, and unfortunately it looks as though, despite our best efforts, bombs did land in the town. If a bomb malfunctioned then it will go astray," he said.

While civilian deaths were inevitable in war, Group Captain Henderson did not believe that the publicity about these incidents was hampering operations as it had done in Vietnam. "The technology since the Vietnam war has taken such a quantum leap forward that we are now able to attack targets with great accuracy," he said.

"If you look at the thousands of sorties we have flown over Iraq and look at the reported incidents, even from Iraq, ... there have not been that many reports of collateral damage or civilian casualties caused by allied bombing. You should also remember the atrocities Iraq committed against Iran with chemical warfare and against its own countrymen, the Kurds."

Morale at the largest RAF base in the Gulf remained high, despite the loss of four Tornados and the Fallujah incident. "It has had no effect whatsoever because our aim has always been to avoid collateral damage," the group captain said. When targets appeared to present a high risk of civilian loss of life, plans were altered to minimise that risk.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

MEDIA

Paris TV journalists boycott French troops

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH television crews in the Gulf began a boycott of coverage of French soldiers in Saudi Arabia yesterday after authorities refused to allow them to film units expected to participate in the allied ground offensive.

The war correspondents and technicians from France's four main channels, TF1, Antenne 2, FR3 and La Cinq, said they had decided on the protest after the army's public relations service refused to allow a pool crew to work with the Foreign Legion and other forward units.

The army proposed instead that a crew from its own cinema and photography establishment shoot the only footage available of the French in action. Just how much action by French forces there will be to film remains to be seen. French air force pilots in Saudi Arabia have seen so little fighting that they have been asked to be transferred from their desert base at al-Ahsa to work alongside British and American airmen — presumably relinquishing French command — at the main allied base at Dhahran further north.

Television authorities were outraged at the restriction. "One has never seen anything like this," a spokesman for the private TF1 channel said yesterday.

"The people and the army cinema and photography establishment are under military orders. Our journalists would find themselves with footage stamped by the army while American crews continue to work with their own cameramen."

The television authorities said: "The military authorities have opposed the presence in the advanced fighting units, of a journalist cameraman and a sound man."

Frustration among television journalists was only heightened when General Raymond Germanos, the head of the army information service, declared that they would have to wait to see how a pool for the written press worked out. "What is happening now is designed to see if it can be extended," the former Foreign Legionnaire said vaguely. The general has been lampooned in the press for his tight-lipped briefings in Paris that give away little about the activities of the 10,000-strong

force stationed in Saudi Arabia.

The state-run Antenne 2 stepped up the pressure yesterday by showing lengthy footage of American marines in action in Normandy during the second world war.

Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, was taking advice on the matter yesterday. Diplomats speculated the restriction was intended to prevent Arab immigrants in France and the populations in North Africa, where French television is received by satellite, from becoming agitated by battlefield scenes.

French officers yesterday gave a military briefing in English in what appeared to be a desperate attempt to attract more coverage from Anglo-Saxon correspondents. Even

the French reporters were obliged to ask their questions in halting English.

Other foreign journalists, furious at being left out of combat coverage of the Gulf war, threatened yesterday to go to the front on their own. They have demanded places in military-escorted trips to the front lines hitherto almost exclusively reserved for American and British reporters.

If they are not given more access to the fighting within two days, they may move north en masse, challenging Saudi Arabian and American military authorities who largely govern coverage of the war. "We are claiming our right to free information," said Perry Kretz, a correspondent for the German Stern magazine.

ROYAL NAVY

Cook's tour is a tough challenge

FROM JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

WHO would be a cook on one of Her Majesty's warships? Trying to satisfy the hunger and the taste-buds of 300 men who have been at sea for six weeks without a break is no mean task, so great a challenge, indeed, that most sensible people might well prefer to avoid it.

Recently I was rash enough to mention in an article that some people on board the Type-22 frigate HMS London were complaining about the food. Retribution came in the shape of a navy cook, Petty Officer Stuart Speck, fortunately armed only with a complaint rather than any more lethal weapon. "What about our morale?" he demanded, leaping to the defence of his fellow cooks. "No one thinks of that. We always get it in the neck."

"You're as good as your last meal, Jack" — the average British sailor — "doesn't remember a meal he enjoyed a few days ago. You're open to criticism all the time and you frequently get some verbal. There are a couple of hundred people here who reckon they can do your job better."

"Jackspeak", a language in itself which to the civilian seems impenetrable at first, can run riot when it comes to food. Baked beans become whistle berries, kippers are Spithead pheasants, a heavy sponge can be referred to as figgyduff, while baby's head is steak and kidney pudding.

According to the cooks (cabbage mechanics in Jackspeak), food has a bearing on morale. Attitudes to the galley and what it serves up can also reflect how ratings are feeling generally.

"In the past two weeks there have been one or two problems because our departure date for Britain has been put back," said Petty Officer Speck. "The matelot is a funny animal. He has to have a date to aim for, a date when he will be on leave. If someone takes that date away, he gets miserable." HMS London's departure date was put back because of operational demands and, according to Petty Officer Speck, "in the past two weeks we have taken the brunt of it on the counter."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

KUWAIT

Plea for air raid caution

FROM REUTERS IN CAIRO

EXILED Kuwaitis in contact with their occupied homeland appealed to the allies to be more careful after a bombing raid knocked out water and electricity services in much of the emirate, apparently by mistake.

They said the situation had deteriorated sharply and Iraqi troops continued to arrest and execute their countrymen.

"There is almost total disorder," said a Kuwaiti by telephone from another Gulf country. "They say police stations are full of Kuwaitis and that many are being tortured."

According to Kuwaitis, allied air raids hit a transformer station that supplied power to the city and to a desalination plant in the Doha district west of Kuwait City. Electricity and water were cut and had only been partially restored.

The Kuwaitis said the allied raid on the station seemed to have been unintentional. Despite four weeks of bombing, water and electricity in Kuwait had been operating normally.

In Baghdad, by contrast, water, electricity and telephone services were cut early in the allied campaign.

"The people inside are appealing to the allies to be a bit more choosy. It is causing a lot of suffering," one Kuwaiti exile said. He added that members of 65 Kuwaitis who were executed by the Iraqis last week and were getting reports of more recent executions.

The source also reported a string of explosions in the Burgan oil field which was set off by the Iraqis.

Ugly Warthog tips battle odds

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON AT AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN SAUDI ARABIA

THERE is very little to please the eye about the American A10 warplane, commonly known as "the Warthog". It looks as if it is made up of spare parts, decidedly ungainly alongside sleek fighters such as the F16.

The impression is strengthened when the thing takes off at a fraction of its speed. But beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and for the troops now massing for a possible ground assault there is no more wonderful sight than that of a Warthog waddling off on another mission with its astonishing armoury of rockets, bombs and a seven-barrelled cannon in its snout.

As tank- and bunker-busters, destroyers of military positions and convoys, or simply roaming the planes, have already gained a large fan club. To judge by accounts from Iraqi deserters, it is also dreaded on the other side, not least because A10s can "loiter" above target zones for up to 90 minutes.

The Warthog pilots love them for their ability to soak

up punishment from ground fire that would knock more sophisticated allied planes out of the skies. With slight exaggeration, they say you can stitch it with bullets from one end to the other and it will still lumber home. The pilots fly largely encased in an immensely strong titanium cage, safe against all but the heaviest anti-aircraft fire.

The day we were there, bad

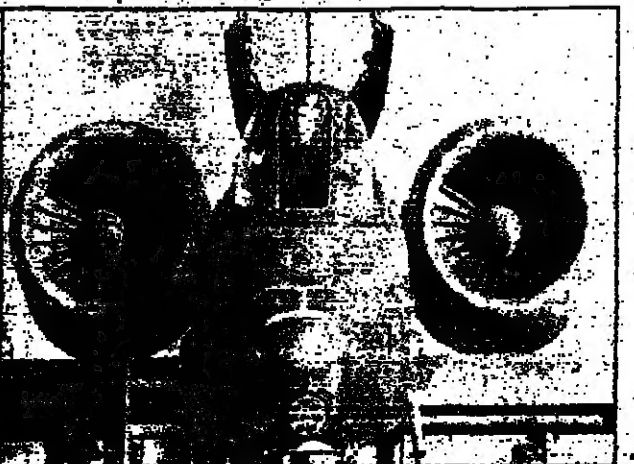
weather had grounded the A10s. Four F16s took off as we drove up, the bright orange glow of their after-burners piercing the mist. It was a welcome break for the A10 teams, after days of three, sometimes four, combat missions. On a good trip, the planes are turned round in little more than 15 minutes.

To an outsider, the relaxed, soft-spoken men who fly the

Warthogs seemed rather younger than their RAF counterparts on Gulf combat duty. For all the talk of "turkey shoots" when A10s have fallen upon vast convoys in open country, these pilots were visibly uneasy about discussing the devastation they had been inflicting. "It is the job we signed up for and there's nothing gained by thinking of the guys you are hitting down there," one said.

They were much happier discussing their cherished "hogs", how this one had lost a chunk of wing, that one a rudder, and kept on flying. This aircraft had been for the chop, its production discontinued five years ago. Yet, without the Warthogs over here, the grinding down of President Saddam Hussein's vast armies of tanks and artillery pieces would hardly have been possible.

What is more, if such an assault is launched, the A10s will be in their element as close-support aircraft, hammering Iraqi positions ahead of the advancing troops.

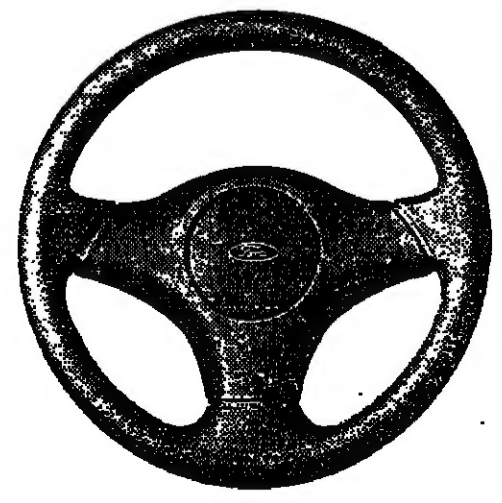


Beauty of the beast: the A10, feared by Iraqi troops

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Soviet troops use tanks to take Georgian militia base

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

SOVIET forces, backed by tanks and armoured vehicles, shot their way into an unofficial Georgian militia base and captured it early yesterday, local journalists and politicians said.

It was the first known instance of Soviet military intervention against the Mkhedroni, a well-armed vigilante group formed two years ago on a growing wave of nationalist sentiment in the southern republic. A journalist in Tbilisi, the capital of the southern republic, said: "There was shooting and they captured the base. Three (Mkhedroni) people were wounded and the military took them away - it is not known where." The attackers, wearing masks, stormed the base near Tbilisi in three tanks and ten armoured vehicles, he added.

Georgians had voiced fears in recent weeks that their nationalist challenge to the Kremlin's au-

thority could be met with armed Soviet intervention as in the Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia last month.

Valerian Advadze, a Georgian member of the Supreme Soviet, said: "There was fighting and there are wounded. The nationalists had three machineguns seized. Nobody is being allowed in and tanks have blocked the road."

Journalists said that 30 militiamen were in the base at the time of the raid. One reporter said all 30 were arrested. They added that two members of the Soviet forces were wounded, one seriously.

The Mkhedroni is one of a number of unofficial militia groups which have sprung up in the southern Soviet republics in open defiance of President Gorbachev. It describes itself as a trouble-shooting force dedicated to keeping the peace. Its leader, Djaba Iosseliani, aged 64, is a one-time bank robber. A greying man with a soldierly bearing, he said in a recent interview that he could raise 6,000 men within eight hours. But Georgia's nationalist leaders oppose the Mkhedroni, calling it a destabilising group armed by the Kremlin in order to sow trouble.

The activities of the Mkhedroni, which supports a coalition against Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the fiercely nationalist president of Georgia, while backing Georgian independence, have injected a new explosive ingredient into a volatile political scene.

President Gamsakhurdia has spearheaded a drive for independence from the Soviet Union which has brought Georgia into open confrontation with the Kremlin. Tension has been further fuelled by vicious mud-slinging among pro- and anti-Gamsakhurdia parties, while a rising tide of Georgian nationalism has spread fear through the republic's ethnic minorities.

Mr Gamsakhurdia said of the militia: "They are gangsters, drug-users. They carry out bank robberies and the like."

Mr Iosseliani said in the interview: "In 200 years Georgia never had its own army. Now we have decided to form our own." His calling card, printed in English, describes him as a doctor of philological sciences. But he admits to having spent 15 years in Siberian jails up to the mid-1960s for armed robbery in Russia. "I was young then," he said.

Visitors to his well-furnished, seventh-floor flat in Tbilisi are shown a video recording of a Mkhedroni training camp at which young men, in civilian clothes, gather outdoors for a pep talk from Mr Iosseliani. Another shows Mkhedroni loyalists marching through the streets of Tbilisi under a light-blue flag bearing the emblem of Saint George.

Mr Iosseliani said his men, who carry medallions bearing their name and blood group, have already carried out military operations in tense parts of the republic where, he claims, they have defused tensions between Georgians and minority groups.

"We train them in how to react in an earthquake, or in a fire, how to use weapons, and in humanitarian work. Ours is a sort of peace corps," he said. But he was vague about the circumstances in which they used their weapons, adding: "We have no difficulty buying guns. We can get them privately, pistols, automatics, rifles. But we do not have heavy weapons."

Mr Iosseliani, describing himself as a democrat, said he had sent a telegram to President Bush offering 100 of his men as volunteers for the allied Gulf force.

Kremlin moves to outflank poll rebels

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WITH less than a month to go before the referendum on the future of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin has outlined measures to counter growing resistance to the project. They include provisions for individual districts and workplaces to designate themselves constituencies and would allow people to vote outside their home district without appearing on the electoral register. They also provide for the result to be calculated nationally rather than on a republic-by-republic basis.

The proposed measures reflect the concern of leadership that the referendum, scheduled for March 17, may not produce the overwhelming vote in favour of a "renewed Soviet Union" that had been expected. At least six republics, including the three Baltic republics, have said they will



Yeltsin: questions on land sales and presidency

not take part, and the Kremlin appears concerned that the mood of the country will not guarantee an overwhelming "yes" vote.

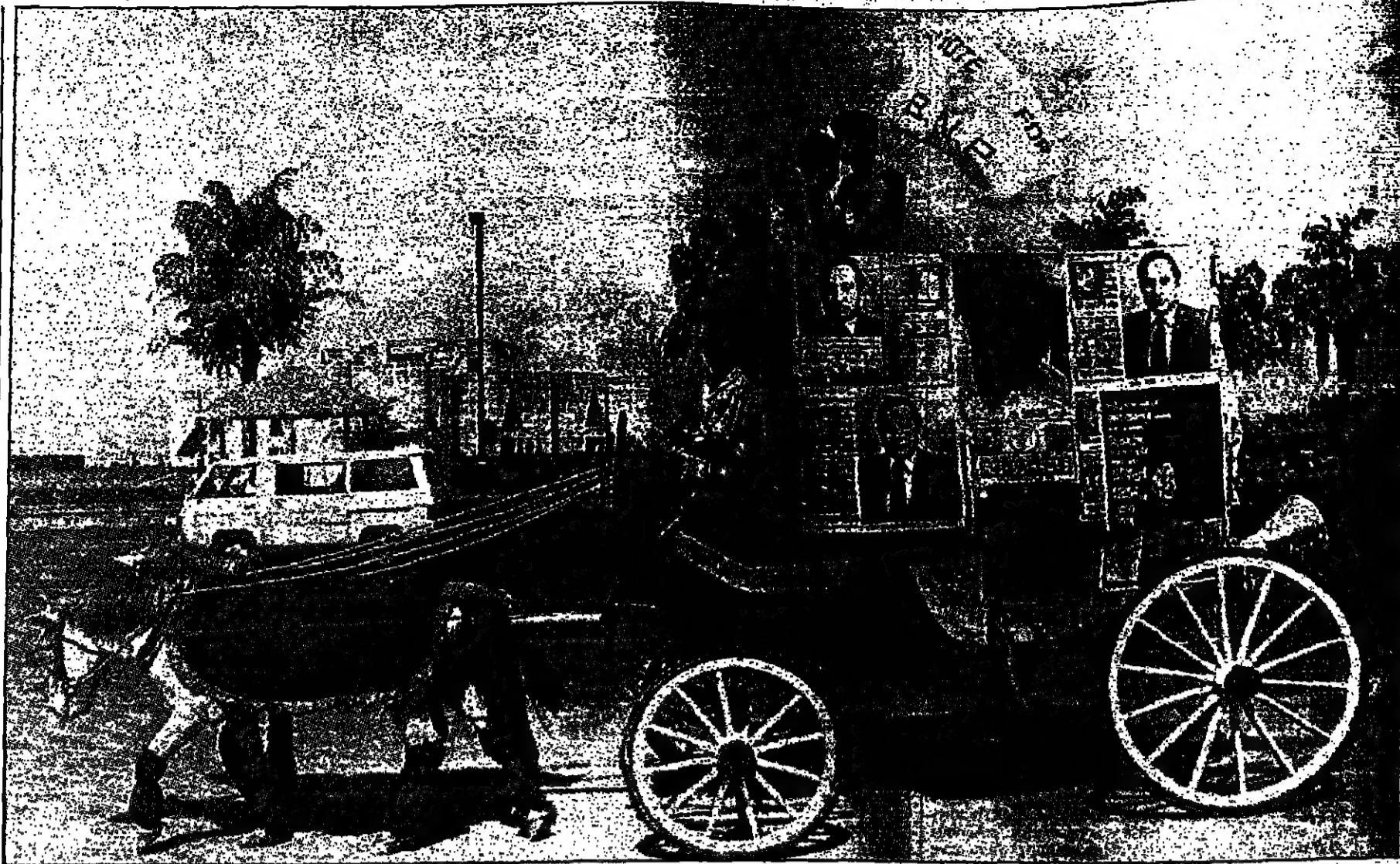
Yesterday Soviet parliamentary deputies were presented with a draft resolution containing the new provisions and condemning attempts to "block the referendum", "change the wording" or "add other questions of republic or local significance". It said that to deprive someone of the right to vote in the referendum was "a violation of the Soviet constitution". The resolution stipulates that voters must be presented with only one, all-union, ballot paper, containing the question: "Do you approve of the preservation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics in which the rights and freedom of citizens of all nationalities will be fully guaranteed?"

This clause appears to be directed specifically against plans by the Russian Federation, led by Boris Yeltsin, to add two extra questions: one on the desirability of having a directly elected executive president, and the other on private land sales.

The draft resolution states that other republic-level plebiscites do not constitute a reason for not holding the March 17 referendum. This is a reference to the referendum held in Lithuania on February 9 and those planned for March 3 in Latvia and Estonia.

The most ominous provision states that in republics or areas where the authorities are not holding the referendum, local councils, "social organisations" and work collectives are entitled to make their own arrangements.

The right to vote can be extended to the families of members of a work collective or other group, and "anyone else who is deprived of the right to vote where they live".



Campaign trail: Bangladesh Nationalist activists trying to raise support for a general election candidate a week tomorrow as their home-drawn carriage passes in front of parliament in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, police charged Hossain Ershad, the former president, with illegally acquiring property worth £300,000

'Attempt to kill Mandela defendant'

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ONE of the missing accused in the trial of Winnie Mandela claims that an attempt was made to murder him before the hearing began, a Johannesburg newspaper reported yesterday.

The Star said it was told by reliable but unidentified sources that Katiza Cebekulu, aged 22, had told people he had been attacked by three other missing accused when they realised he intended standing trial.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Mr Cebekulu, Mpho Gift Mabane, aged 19, Sibiso Brian Mabuza, aged 19, and a 17-year-old youth. They are accused with Mrs Mandela and three others, who have pleaded not guilty, of kidnapping and serious assault, but were reported missing when the trial began in the supreme court in Johannesburg on February 4.

Last week, the trial was adjourned until March 6 after two key state witnesses refused to give evidence after the alleged abduction of a third from a Methodist church manse in Soweto, outside Johannesburg. Mr Cebekulu is reported to have been near the court building after the trial began.

The newspaper reported that people who saw Mr Cebekulu before the trial said he had sores on his head and an injured right arm. He told them that boiling water was thrown at him and that he was shot near the elbow. He claimed he had been treated in a Soweto hospital but had concealed his identity.

The newspaper quoted one of its informants as saying: "I am worried about him and feel that if something is published it might help. No one knows where he is and it seems he is just running."

Accord rejected: The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday rejected a peace accord between the African National Congress and the government, saying: "The bullet cannot be abandoned." Benny Alexander, the secretary-general, said: "We remain committed to the intensification of the armed struggle." (Reuters)

Central Europe sides with West on force reductions

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE states of Central Europe, demonstrating their newfound independence from Moscow in foreign and defence policy, are siding with Nato against the Soviet Union in demanding far play at the Vienna talks on conventional force reductions.

The treaty on conventional forces in Europe, signed by 22 countries last November, significantly pared down the armies and air forces between the Atlantic and the Urals. But on Sunday an important deadline passed: the 90th day after the treaty was signed was regarded as the last day that data on tanks and other weaponry could be revised. Moscow submitted some new figures last week but it is already plain that these do not really answer the doubts of the West. It is still uncertain whether the treaty, hailed as a sign of the new, more peaceful and open European order last autumn, will ever be ratified.

Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria are furious with Moscow and sense that the problems with the treaty may stem from foot-dragging by the Soviet army. Nato's original goal in the negotiations was to reduce the threat of a surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact on Western Europe, and to make it more difficult for Moscow to intervene militarily in reformist East European states.

The disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, and Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe, have already made a surprise attack on the West extremely unlikely. But the treaty, with its important verification clauses, was still important as a guarantor of security for the new eastern democracies. The treaty is an agreement between two "groups of state parties", that is between members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact. But the post-communist states have broken away from any national alignment of blocs and are joining with the West to put the squeeze on Moscow.

Western diplomats say that their intelligence indicates a discrepancy between the number of units that Moscow agreed to withdraw and the number of units (presumably pinpointed by satellite) that are still in place. The new data submissions by Moscow

partly answer these charges, but they do not tackle the so-called redesignation problem - the recent transfer of three armoured divisions to Soviet naval and coastal defence units. Since naval forces are excluded from the treaty the suspicion is that the Soviet Union is trying to cheat, tucking away about a thousand extra tanks. Many of these "redesignated" tanks are in the Baltic military district, which is cause for alarm in neighbouring Poland.

Although the Vienna talks still give the appearance of being a numbers game, they have changed qualitatively and are more about political salesmanship. It has been clear for some time that the Soviet general staff was unhappy about the way the negotiations were being handled by Eduard Shevardnadze, the then Soviet foreign minister. In particular the generals wanted the Kiev military district to be granted special

protection. With Mr Shevardnadze out of power, the Soviet general staff may be trying to claw back further advantages.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, has already recommended a delay in submitting the treaty to the senate for approval. Ratification will prove difficult in the general air of suspicion that has greeted into the Vienna talks over the past few weeks. Yet, without ratification, the West cannot begin to verify Soviet compliance.

Such a limbo has occurred before in arms negotiations. But the present deadlock hurts Eastern Europe in particular. The Soviet repression in Lithuania has injected considerable uncertainty in the region. At the very least this mood is scuttling away Western investment. The conventional forces treaty would have offered a useful restraint on the Soviet army and its foreign policy ambitions.

UK agrees to give EC new defence policy role

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN has agreed to a major revision of European defence arrangements which will create a new European Community centre within Nato. The EC should direct the Western European Union (WEU), the government has agreed in principle.

The nine-country union has functioned as little more than a talking shop for the European members of Nato since it was founded in 1948. According to a draft document agreed by Britain, the union should now follow guidelines to be set by European Community ministers.

The WEU's council of foreign and defence ministers is due to meet in Paris on Friday to finalise the plan, which is still opposed by The Netherlands. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will set out the government's thinking on the future relationship between Nato, the WEU and the EC in a speech in Luxembourg tonight.

Europe's defence arrangements have been under discussion since the fall of the Berlin Wall and subsequent unification of Germany. The invasion of Kuwait highlighted the problems of co-ordinating Western military forces outside the traditional Nato area of Europe and its surrounding seas. Britain has until now been cautious about tying the WEU to the EC and it is unlikely that such a plan would have been approved by Margaret Thatcher.

The first formula which will determine how European Community authority will be exercised over the union has not been settled. The WEU meeting in Paris will debate a document which is due to be sent to the negotiators who are overhauling the EC's foreign policy machinery. Governments have reached broad agreement that almost all foreign policy positions must continue to be reached unanimously and individual countries should be free to pursue their own interests.

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Hint of a thaw in the Havel-Walesa cold war

Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa, the two towering figures of post-communist Central Europe, have declared an armed truce, and not before time. For more than a year their personal rivalry has made for uneasiness in the already strained relationship between Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Now both presidents are on their best behaviour and are busily briefing journalists about their deep mutual respect and the personal, as well as political, success of last Friday's summit between Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Nobody believes a word of it. Their animosity goes back at least to January 1990, when the newly elected President Havel paid his first visit to Warsaw. It was a 24-hour trip and there was no time to fly to Gdansk.

Mr Walesa, then still a revolutionary hero without portfolio, was offended. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, then prime minister, rang him three times to persuade the Solidarity chief to leave Gdansk to meet President Havel. Bronislaw Geremek, the head of the Solidarity caucus, tried. The editor Adam Michnik tried. All to no avail. If President Havel was not prepared to pay tribute to the birthplace of Solidarity then there would be no meeting.

This incident, the first of many, is

described in detail in a book to be published next week by Jaroslaw Kurski, Mr Walesa's former spokesman.

The Solidarity chairman felt himself snubbed by the Czechoslovak president and by the Warsaw political elite. There are strong ties between the former dissidents around President Havel and the Warsaw dissidents grouped around Mr Mazowiecki.

Partly out of pique at the international publicity for President Havel, Mr Walesa decided to run for the Polish presidency. His was a much harder campaign. Mr Kurski quotes Mr Walesa grumbling: "Now they are applauding Havel but soon they will start to boo him because our car (the economy) has already stopped, while the Czech car is still in reverse." President Havel's popularity would melt as soon as free-market policies took hold.

Next it was Prague's turn to be miffed. Mr Walesa gave his presidential inauguration speech on December 22 last year and emphasised the need for good relations with the neighbours, Germany and the Soviet republics. No mention of Czechoslovakia. After the Soviet intervention in Lithuania,

President Havel wanted to ring President Walesa to work out a common stance. Nobody could find a phone number for Mr Walesa. Aides had the old number of the communist central committee, a number for the government, but not for the presidential palace. Somebody remembered that a provocative Polish weekly, Nle, had published Mr Walesa's bedroom extension number (with exhortations to ring him after midnight and congratulate him on his election win). But this number was not answered.

Some of this friction is due to the two countries' tangled history. Never easy, the relationship was soured by communism and in particular the Soviet Union, which played the imperial politics of "divide and rule". A Polish presidential aide confesses: "We know far too little about Czechoslovakia, much less than we know about America or Britain."

The result, after the break up of communism, has been a competitive relationship. Prague, Warsaw and Budapest jostle for West European and American investment. Mr Havel's first state visit was to Germany, not Poland. Of the two, though, it is President Walesa who has shown a better grasp of day-to-day foreign policy decision-making. While

Mr Havel favours a policy of gestures towards the Soviet Union, Mr Walesa senses trouble ahead from the increasingly politicised Soviet army.

"It's not a good time to anger the bear," Mr Walesa told the Czechoslovak leader when he eventually managed to get through to Warsaw. The advice was sound, but it probably did little to improve the relations between these two most prickly of statesmen.



Havel 1990 "snub" for Walesa marked cooling of relations

50 die in Sri Lanka attack by guerrillas

Colombo - Forty-five Sri Lankan soldiers, including two lieutenants, and five Tamil rebels were killed by guerrillas in the island's Northern Province (Vijitha Yapa writes). Military sources said that the ambush occurred at Kottachchi in Vavuniya district when the soldiers were returning to their camp.

Military sources said some of the ten survivors reported that when they were walking back to the camp, mines were set off by the guerrillas. The rebels had then opened fire on the soldiers. Eight of the survivors were reported to be in a serious condition.

Judge elected

Prato - Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro, a former supreme court judge, celebrated a decisive victory in Cape Verde's first presidential elections, which ended 15 years of one-party rule. Only 25 per cent of the 165,000 voters picked President Pereira, who has ruled the tiny African archipelago since independence from Portugal in 1975. (AP)

Belgrade strike

Belgrade - About 13,000 Yugoslav metal workers went on strike in the largest show of labour discontent with the communist government of Serbia since the December elections. "We are demanding payment of guaranteed salaries," said Dobrovoje Lazarevic, a strike committee member. He said workers had not been paid since December. (AP)

Mafiosi freed

Palermo - An appeals court released 28 convicted mafia members because of an administrative blunder. The move followed a controversial ruling last week by the supreme court in Rome which said the mafiosi had to be freed because the legal limit of preventive detention between conviction and appeal trial had expired. It set conditions for their future residence and restricted their movements. (Reuters)

Death toll rises

Bangkok - The death toll from the worst road disaster in Thailand rose to 171 and newspapers suggested that the victims had themselves to blame. "In the past 24 hours we have found about 40 bodies - in houses, in trees," police said in the southern province of Phang-nga. The accident occurred when hundreds of people crowded around a lorry that had turned over with a load of dynamite. (Reuters)

Minister moves

Tunis - Tunisia moved Abdelhak Kallal, the defence minister, to the interior ministry, after masked men set on fire two guards and stabbed two other people at a local office of the ruling political party. The government said that about 30 Islamic extremists had attacked two security guards. (Reuters)

Flood disaster

Sydney - More than half of the Australian state of Queensland was declared a flood disaster area after heavy rains in the past few days, adding to problems created by Cyclone Joy in December. Wayne Goss, the state premier, declared that 57 zones were disaster areas, adding 18 more to the list. A spokesman said that more areas may be affected in the next few days. (Reuters)

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After 9th April 1991 interest will normally be paid at the net rate, after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, currently 25.00%. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds an individual's liability, in tax. Interest may be paid at the gross rate, without deduction of tax to individuals who are eligible and register that they do not expect to be liable to income tax and in certain other cases. If the account is closed prior to the 9th April 1991, the interest will be paid at the advertised net rate, the basic rate tax liability, on which will be discharged and which may not be reclaimed. All rates quoted are variable and correct at time of going to press. Interest paid annually. Overdrafts and cheque guarantee cards are only available to those over 18 and are subject to limits. Written quotations available from Chesterfield House, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1V 6PU.

Michael Howard

Think hard on total war

Saddam Hussein's "peace offer" last week contained terms that were clearly unacceptable, and President Bush predictably refused to accept it. The White House spokesman said that it contained nothing new, and the president himself dismissed it as "a cruel hoax". But it did contain something new: it raised for the first time the possibility of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and Mr Gorbachev will not be alone in seeing it as the possible opening of a bargaining process that might end with Kuwait's peaceful liberation.

The basic problem is whether this is simply a ploy to divide the allies, or an offer worthy of quiet exploration. Certainly the coalition is easily divisible, and may become more so as the war goes on. For most Americans, and probably Mr Bush himself, the conflict has become personalised. It is a struggle to destroy Saddam, and the liberation of Kuwait is only a means to that end. The Americans are fighting, in Clausewitzian terms, a total war of overthrow. The only satisfactory outcome for them, as in all America's successful wars, is unconditional surrender.

But that is not the objective set out in the resolutions of the United Nations, nor is it endorsed even by America's closest ally, Britain. There is good reason to believe that no stable settlement can be reached in the Middle East while Saddam remains in power, or even while Iraq retains a military capability, but eliminating them is not a goal universally shared.

Formally we are fighting, under UN auspices, a war limited to winning the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait and compensation of its rulers and people for the damage inflicted on them. For those who take this view, extending those goals would not only transcend the bounds legitimised by the UN but create a new regional instability. To keep the war limited and build a golden bridge for our enemy to retreat would, according to this view, be not only just, but prudent.

Unfortunately the military techniques that western democracies have developed in the 20th century have made such limited wars — except under such rare conditions as the Falklands campaign — almost impossible. Ever since the first world war, our primary concern has been to minimise our own casualties by using superior technology and industrial power to inflict crushing losses on our opponents — including their non-combatant populations.

There is a horrible military logic about this. In the first place, the second world war showed that one cannot fight effectively without destroying enemy air power over the battlefield, which can best be done by striking not only at his air bases but at the industrial sources. The enemy's capacity for control, communications and reinforcements of forces in the field must also be crippled, which means bombing roads, bridges, rail centres and fuel supplies. Even with "smart bombs", military targets cannot always be singled out while leaving the rest of the community

intact. Military "surgery" is still at the level of its medical counterpart in the 18th century.

One need not target civilians in modern industrial communities to make their lives barely endurable: it can be done as effectively by destroying such legitimate military targets as power stations and communications networks. Whatever our leaders may say, we are making war not only on Saddam and his army, but also on the Iraqi people. It is, unfortunately, the only way we know to destroy Iraqi military power at a cost acceptable to our own electorates.

This western way of warfare has, however, grave political and ethical costs, and they cannot all be loaded on the shoulders of Saddam Hussein. Ethically there is a *justus bellum* as well as a *justus ad bellum*, and one of the principles of the "just war" is that one should not in the course of it inflict greater damage than that one is concerned to avenge.

Politically, the costs are more direct. The destruction of the Baghdad air-raid shelter last week may have been a tragic accident, but it was an accident waiting to happen, and unless we are very fortunate there will be more. After a month of almost uninterrupted bombing, we may justifiably congratulate ourselves on the low level of civilian casualties, but this is not how it appears to most of the Islamic world.

"The western way of warfare has grave political and ethical costs: not all can be loaded on Saddam's shoulders"

Those tragic pictures of Iraqi men and women seeking their dead children amid the rubble will make the same world impact as those of the blazing, screaming little girl in Vietnam once did. There is little doubt that the Iraqi army did horrible things in Kuwait, but the media, alas, did not record them. It is we who are now in the pillory, and demands for the trial of Saddam as a war criminal will be met in many quarters with an embarrassing *tu quoque*.

In wartime, each side quickly demonises the other, seeing in its adversary the embodiment of evil forces with whom no deal is possible. The demand that Saddam should be tried for war crimes has ugly echoes of the cries of "Hang the Kaiser" during the first world war.

It is one of the weaknesses of democracies that their governments cannot distance themselves from this process: they may be able to control their military, but they cannot control the electorates that keep them in power, and all too often they are more concerned to follow public emotions than to manage them.

We must hope that Mr Bush's outright rejection of Saddam's terms was based on cool, informed reflection rather than personal passion or calculations of domestic political support. We must hope also that if he is set on a war of total overthrow, he and his allied partners have some idea about what is going to happen afterwards. Otherwise the verdict of historians on our conduct of the war will be Tacitean rather than Clausewitzian: they created a desert, and they called it peace.

Sir Michael Howard is professor of modern history at Yale University.

Public duty must beat the bombers

The police do their best, writes Brian Hilliard, but face a near-impossible task if they follow up every lead

difficulty in deciding how far that investigation must be carried. Can they afford to set an arbitrary deadline of perhaps, midnight on Sunday, and appeal for everyone who passed through Victoria and Paddington after that time to contact them? Can they limit the enquiry to travellers in the vicinity of specific platforms? If there is forensic evidence of a briefcase, a duffel bag, or a milk carton being the bomb container, do they widen the enquiry and appeal for witnesses who might have seen someone in possession of such an item?

How many witnesses might reply to the bureaux set up at the stations, or to the broadcast and newspaper appeals? Having been contacted by at least 5,000, how long will it be before sufficient officers are briefed in the objectives of the operation to interview them effectively, in many different parts of the country?

Computer systems are available to deal with the information when it is obtained, but only a wholly inexperienced optimist would expect the investigation to reveal the exact circumstances of the planting of the bomb and a worthwhile description of the bomber. What is really going on in this part of the investigation is a massive reassurance exercise to show that the police are acting decisively, and an equally extensive public relations exercise to recruit the public to assist the investigation. And the more successful this is, the fewer police will be left to deal with normal security.

Suppose there is an emergency call about an abandoned briefcase at Oxford Circus tube station. The station is cleared and traffic rerouted. Perhaps 100 police officers are needed for this operation alone. Repeat that four times in a week in central London, and public concern turns to public discontent. Staff and commuters are no longer so keen to view a lonely suitcase as a possible danger.

With only a few bomb disposal experts available — many are serving in the Gulf — it will usually take an hour to clear a suspect package. In areas where experience suggests a bomb is unlikely, a road, a factory or school can stay

closed for half a day. A month after the first fatality, indifference will have replaced suspicion, and the bomber is free to move again. As the main body of the enquiry is seen to be pushing steadily forward, the more important legs are working furiously out of sight. Potential informants, political and criminal, are pursued, cajoled, bribed and threatened. Because any extra police activity inhibits their projects, criminals give all the help they can just to get the police away from the area.

Political informers can be just as useful in providing details of rival factions. Known IRA sympathisers are visited by Special Branch officers. Other suspects against whom no action can be taken are put under obvious and semi-harassing surveillance. Further suspects, who would not normally merit so much attention, may be detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the hope that panic will produce a name, an address, a car registration number.

This second part is not a vast operation. The Special Branch in London has fewer than 500 offi-

cers, the anti-terrorist branch far fewer still, while the IRA leadership is even smaller, well known and virtually restricted to the Irish Republic. Mainland operations appear to be carried out by small, independent cells with a low level of expertise, unknown to one another and unsuspected by the community in which they live.

But alongside the two strands of the investigation is a management operation concerned with its public face. There may never be any arrests; Scotland Yard must be prepared for eventual public and political criticism and to provide reasons for failure. There must be precautions against a backlash directed at the Irish community. The last major IRA campaign saw at least one Irish school petrol-bombed, assaults on Irish workers, and boycotts of Irish businesses.

And if there are any arrests, the police will be acutely aware of the mistakes at Guildford and Birmingham. The public may want quick and decisive action; there may be enormous pressure on the police to produce results, but there will be an overwhelming national and international concern that only the guilty — and not scapegoats — are charged and sentenced.

The author is editor of Police Review.

David Powell calls for tough measures to prevent incidents like that at Cosford

Suspend the errant athletes



One had more that led to another: with his deliberate stare, Burrell (left) provoked Christie into swearing — and a near punch-up

Millions of television viewers watched the angry confrontation between the sprinters Leroy Burrell and Linford Christie after their race at RAF Cosford on Sunday. Mr Burrell's deliberate provocation, Mr Christie's abuse and their finger-wagging set to could not have seemed further from the sportsmanship and heroism of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell so memorably portrayed in *Chariots of Fire*. But theirs was a different world.

Although the authorities insist on retaining references to an amateur sport (International Amateur Athletic Federation, British Amateur Athletic Board), and although there is no appearance money at the Olympics or world championships, today's sprinters are handsomely rewarded. Money has raised the stakes of athletics above mere pride in winning gold medals. They are paid for just turning up, with bonus money for breaking records. They are fast men, earning fast bucks.

When Mr Burrell tried to set an indoor world record for the 60 metres in Madrid last week, but was disqualified for a false start, he asked to try again. The second time out of his blocks, he took the record and the bonus. His rates work out at close to £10,000 for each second's running.

The television pictures of Messrs Christie and Burrell standing, like boxers, eyeball to eyeball before the race, were a reminder that commerce rules athletics. Television attracts sponsors, sponsors line the athletes' pockets, and competing athletes are the big draw that sells tickets.

On Sunday those commercial pressures proved too much for Mr Burrell (he was in England rather than home on the American circuit because "American promoters cannot produce the dollars and you can make more money here"). During the race he turned to give Mr Christie, who was

damaged by the drugs problem. They have set about combating drug-taking by testing athletes at random and without notice. Those who refuse or fail a test are banned from competition. The authorities should now consider a general code of conduct, so that disciplinary action could be taken against athletes bringing their sport into disrepute for other offences, just as Ben Johnson was suspended for his positive drugs test after winning the Olympic 100 metres in 1988.

The tennis authorities claim that such a policy has worked for them. The lecherous behaviour of the likes of Messrs Nastase, Connors and McEnroe threatened to spread like a virus, but has been contained, if not eradicated, by penalties for offenders. The fines may be meaningless to the millionaire players, but forfeiting points and games is a successful deterrent.

Athletics needs similar measures. The Christie and Burrell

incident was neither the first nor the most extreme case of aggression between athletes at an international event. Two 800 metre runners started fighting in the Bilet Stadium, Oslo, some years ago; and in Birmingham last summer two athletes spilled off the track during the Amateur Athletic Association 1,500 metres final and, while the race continued, squared up to each other in full view of spectators and television.

While fines may prove an awkward legal hurdle for officials to clear in a sport which purports to be amateur, a range of suspensions depending on the offence may put a stop to incidents like that on Sunday before other athletes are tempted to copy it. And why shouldn't the authorities make clear their disapproval of runners who, on entering the finishing straight knowing their race to be won, belittle their opponents by arrogantly waving to the crowd? Steve Ovett, an Olympic 800 metres champion,

used to offend in just this way. Had Mr Burrell faced, say, a one-month ban at a crucial time on the international fixtures list for baiting Mr Christie, had Mr Christie faced the same for his abusive response, perhaps none of this would have happened. Though powerful promoters, rich sponsors and increasingly influential athletes' agents may challenge any attempt by the authorities to keep their assets on the shelf, even temporarily, tough measures are required to maintain standards of sportsmanship.

For Mr Christie this was no way to repay an old friend. RAF Cosford was where he took his first strides as an indoor athlete, and it was indoor athletics that provided the platform to his spectacular outdoor success as Europe's finest-ever sprinter. After 31 years as England's home of indoor athletics, the old aircraft hangar was staging its last international fixture. This is a sad way to remember it.

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...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Let me quickly say that I have nothing against immortality. And let me almost as quickly say that the immortality I have nothing against is, of course, the metaphorical variety, because, even if it existed, I should have a great deal against the other sort. It would be no fun at all waking up on your billionth birthday, opening your billionth batch of jocular cards, and trying to think of somewhere different to go for dinner.

No, the immortality under inspection here is the only one currently on offer to us, viz the immortality that might come your way after your mortality had run its inevitable course — what should, I suppose, more properly be called *paranormality*. It is little more, really, than the property of being remembered; for though we are all footprints in the sands of time, if we may so arrange it that a little fortifying cement is sprinkled in that mortal wake to enable posterity to stand on the crest of time's windy dune, point to the indentation and say "Oh look, old so-and-so passed this way!", we shall be the happier to pop our clogs, knowing that our libbin' has not been in vain.

Especially if we have helped somebody as we rolled along. Because that little more than the property of being remembered is the being remembered benevolently, something yet harder to ensure. If we are one of the rare ones, of course, we can jot down *King Lear*, or spot the Awdley potential of a rattling kente-lid, or come up with a

recipe for stout, but if we belong to the vast majority of common ones, then there is generally not a great deal we can do to guarantee that, after the earth has run its course on our own lid, our name will be legion and our works extolled. Oh, we can plant a magnolia, or make a video of our weekend in Rhyll, or have our A-level certificate tastefully framed for subsequent bequest, but as hedges against perishability, these cannot be said to count for much.

They know this at Heritage Ceramics Inc., Denver, Col. I know that they know this because they have written to tell me so. It may well be that they have also written to you, because there is nothing special about me; I know that there is nothing special about me because, if there were, Heritage Ceramics wouldn't have written to me. They wouldn't have offered me an Invitation to Become Your Own Heirloom.

Here is how it works. You send Heritage Ceramics two personal items: one is a photograph with your face on it, the other is a cheque with your signature on it. Having put the latter in their out-tray, they take your photograph from their in-tray, and they pass it to master-ceramicists working in the time-honoured traditions of their craft. These worthy fellows transfer-print your face, and glaze it in kilns, not once but four times, ensuring that it is proofed to a resistance twice as high as that which attaches to the toughest dishwasher. They do this because you are now a

106-piece dinner-service. Your face is graining up not merely from plates and bowls, but also from oven-to-table tarsans and serving-ladies. It need not be your face alone, either: you may wish to be a husband-and-wife dinner service, but since this is mentioned only in a footnote, I conclude that Heritage Ceramics have looked at the divorce statistics and concluded that deathless crockery might have its embassments, too.

They prefer to emphasise the boons: "Just think, two centuries from now, your ancestors could be sitting down to a formal dinner off... I pause, because while they cry — off this unique family heirloom, I think — off your face". It is 2191, and I am gazing up at my descendants through a puddle of consommé. The next course comes, and now I lie hidden beneath gammon and two veg, to be gradually revealed as an ancestor with a pea in one eye, a carrot where his nose should be, and a shard of gristle in his hair.

Now it is pudding time, and I am being hurried from oven-to-table, and, oh look, my contents have boiled over. I am just a chin emerging from beneath a treacle caul. "Who's that?" shriek the children. "Why," replies their mother, "it is Great-great-grandpa Grandpa Coren, of course, and take that smirk off your faces, he is worth a fortune, despite the crack in his ladle."

I do believe I'll take a rain-check. Heritage. No offence, but I know where I can lay my hands on a really sturdy magnolia.

BBC braces for early poll

Should John Major decide to open the opinion polls and call a hasty election, the BBC is ready to do its duty. Despite the expenditure of millions of pounds on Gulf war coverage, the specially commissioned election studio and the expensive computer graphics are ready for an early poll.

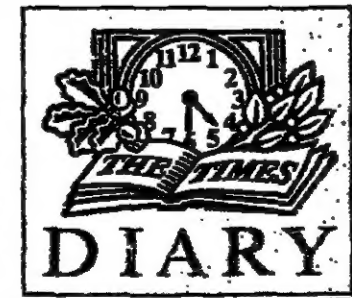
An official spokesman says no expense will be spared should Major soon go to the country. "There is no question of scaling down our coverage because of events in the Gulf."

The top trio of David Dimbleby, Peter Snow and Peter Sissons will be responsible for the BBC's efforts. A fortnight ago, they took part in an intensive, two-day rehearsal. They had before them four possible election scenarios: a Tory landslide, a narrow Tory win, a Labour victory, and a hung parliament. Peter Sissons, who will be in charge of interviewing panels of guests, says: "The specially built studio is the biggest set I have seen. It's all rigged up with an amazing display of hardware and computer graphics."

Not is there any question that coverage of the campaign will be any less ambitious than the results programme. "There are no constraints," says the spokesman. "We already have the reporters in the field thanks to the BBC's regional network, so candidates can be followed around the country."

Over at ITN, the outlook is not so rosy. The Gulf war has gobbled up the contingency fund, and ITN will have to ask the independent television companies, already suffering from the advertising downturn, for more money.

The BBC, however, would welcome an early election: "If we have to wait until next year we will have to come up with new electronic sequences and computer programmes."



Devotees of the David Lynch cult series *Twin Peaks*, which concludes tonight on BBC 2, need not be despondent. Having finally discovered who murdered heroine Laura Palmer, they can look forward to the publication of an exhaustive guide to the *Canadian town in the spring*. The *Twin Peaks* Guide includes details of the flora and fauna to be found in the mythical area, and how to make a *Twin Peaks* doughnut.

Squeezed out

E-x-king Constantine of Greece, who has always believed that his people would one day welcome him back, seems to have had a change of heart. Nearly two decades after he was deposed, his furniture and effects, including *objets d'art*, will shortly join him in exile in London. With the sanction of the Greek government, nine containers of belongings from his former summer palace at Tatoi, near Athens, were loaded yesterday on a German cargo ship bound for Britain.

"None of the material has any historical or archaeological value, and no item is more than 150 years old," says the Greek finance minister, Ioannis Paleokrassas. "It is all part of the ex-king's personal property included in an inventory made after he went into exile." Until now the material has been held back because of a tax claim. Last year the government levied

£957,000 in property and income tax on Constantine, but it is now looking at other ways to get the money.

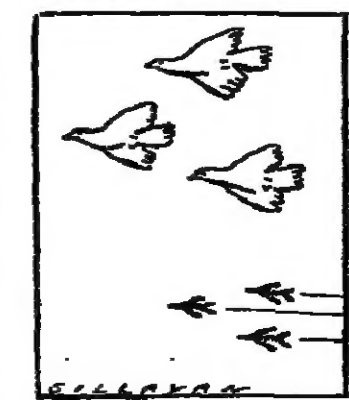
The ex-king now faces the problem of what to do with the vast quantity of furniture. Although he lives in considerable comfort, it seems unlikely that his home in Hampstead Garden Suburb could accommodate it all.

War's other victims

Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, plans to visit Gulf war battlefields once the artillery falls silent to gather material for a book about the plight of wildlife in war zones around the world.

He and his co-author, Mark Carwardine, had the idea long before the invasion of Kuwait. They have already researched the plight of animals in Afghanistan, Uganda, Nicaragua and Vietnam. "In south-east Asia we were particularly interested in the kouprey, a species of wild ox on the borders of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, which has been devastated by minefields," says Adams. "No-one has seen one for some time, and there are fears that it may be extinct."

There are no such fears, as yet, for wildlife in the desert around Kuwait, but Adams and Carwardine



dine are concerned about the long-term effects of the oil spillages in the northern Gulf on fish and bird life.

● *Captain Cook's claim to be the first European to land in Botany Bay has been questioned by Australian scientists, who say an obscure Portuguese sailor may be a more suitable candidate. Geologists have discovered a Portuguese lead fishing weight while collecting samples of sediment from Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland. Bill Ward, of Griffith University in Brisbane, thinks it may have been dropped overboard 400 years before Captain Cook's arrival. Luckily such weighty matters are not affecting the celebrations, already under way, of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America.*

Moving right

Millionaire John Martin, a founding member of the SDP and close supporter of David Owen, has joined the Conservative party, thereby improving its chances of retaining one of the key London marginals on which Labour has set its sights. In 1988 Martin stood for the SDP in the Kensington by-election. He came fourth with only 1,190 votes but that was almost 400 more than the margin separating Dudley Fishburn, the Tory winner, and his Labour challenger, Martin. It is a popular figure in Kensington, where he lives. Come the general election he will try to swing the SDP vote behind Fishburn, and if it is a close contest, that support could be crucial.

Martin has undergone a rapid change of heart. When Owen announced the winding-up of the party last summer, he led an unsuccessful rearguard action to keep the party alive. Conservative Central Office, expressing its delight at recruiting him, says: "They always come round to our way of thinking in the end."



BEATING TERROR

Only one comment is worth making on the London station bombs yesterday. It came from a commuter. "This is never going to put people like me off travelling." The carnage can be excoriated. Pundits can be wise after the event. The public can be more vigilant. The police can be reinforced. But no city can be made secure from the "terrible simplicity" of an anarchist bomb, Conrad's "pest in a street full of men".

No city can be made secure, but the mind of a city can and must retain its sense of security. Terrorist is a word too casually used of the murderer, the criminal, the revolutionary, even the rebel. It has become a general term of abuse for acts of violence committed to achieve a political end. A bomb in a crowded station concourse is properly described as terrorist. Its purpose is not, like the Downing Street mortar, to kill politicians or disrupt the work of government but simply to induce terror. The perpetrators hope that the public will be less inclined to use public transport, will be inconvenienced, will grow angry and finally press the government to concede the point at issue. They hope thereby to change policy while bypassing the democratic process.

The IRA has apparently decided to bring to Britain the tactic of economic disruption long employed in Belfast, and last tried in London in the 1970s. The first bomb must "bite" so that subsequent random warnings, including hoaxes, will be taken seriously.

Two responses to this are appropriate. First, by no extent of tolerable administration can such outrages be avoided or even marginalised. But speed of police reaction and swiftness in the subsequent return to

normality are vital. Railway stations and airports are beyond blanket security. The flow of people through London stations is as intrinsic to the life and work of London as is the flow of people along streets. There is no practical way of stopping such bombs. They must be regarded as accidents, diabolical but unavoidable. To be terrified is the worst reaction because it is the one the terrorist is specifically demanding.

The second response requires more courage, this time from those in authority. It is not to allow the perpetrators of terror to dictate the political agenda, whether or not that agenda may work to the latter's short-term interests. The British government's approach towards Northern Ireland has become dangerously neutralised by what is known as the politics of the last atrocity. The IRA seems able to undermine each move towards communal rapprochement by an act of violence. Ministers thus risk letting the IRA claim that any change in policy is induced by its actions. When that happens, policy ceases to be rooted in sound government and veers towards ad hoc defensiveness.

Down this grim road to totalitarianism have passed a hundred states. Britain is mercifully not on that path. But every public bomb is a beckoning finger, inviting an escalation of terror and counter-terror. Such escalation would be a disaster for policy in Northern Ireland and for politics in Britain. No such outrage should ever make the people of London desert their public spaces or their public services. To go normally about one's business is the only victory every citizen can score against terrorism.

ELECTRIFYING OFFER

The government chose a comic variant of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to sell the privatisation of the 12 regional electricity companies. Now that they look likely to ask for price increases of up to 13 per cent, the electricity companies may be rising up in a way wholly unexpected by their creator. If it wants to control inflation, the government cannot afford to let this particular monster go on the rampage.

Price bargaining between the government and nationalised, or in this case regulated, industries, is less public than pay bargaining but no less critical to the economy. If the government were facing a demand for rises of up to 13 per cent from a group of its own employees, it would argue that such increases were inflationary — though it recently showed it might concede them none the less. It is now facing such a demand from the privatised electricity companies and the bid should be rejected by the industry's watchdog, the Office of Electricity Supply (Offer) with vigour.

Offer was set up by the energy secretary, John Wakeham, as a statutorily independent body, empowered to reject proposed price increases from the regional companies. Mr Wakeham was involved in devising the present price formula, which obliges Offer to ensure that electricity prices rise by less than the rate of inflation over a three-year period. Stephen Littlechild, Offer's director-general, should look hard at any bids which come in from the companies, and knock them down where appropriate. The professor has good role-models in his opposite numbers who regulate British Telecom and British Gas. They have been taking up the cudgels on behalf of their consumers with satisfying results.

There is certainly some power politics in this. The power companies may simply be pushing up their initial demands in order to see them bargained down by Offer to a more sensible level. This would allow the companies to build up a useful grievance for next year, while looking reasonable to the public, and probably reaching roughly the price they privately wanted.

Under the new rules, if the electricity

companies do not raise their prices by the rate of inflation one year, they can make up the loss in a subsequent year. It looks as if the electricity companies are going to plead this principle in aid this year. To set a price increase for April, the companies use a figure predicted by the Treasury for inflation the following October. Because the government last year badly underestimated inflation, the companies say their prices are too low by 4.9 per cent. Adding that to the 5.5 per cent inflation forecast for this October would allow the companies under the price formula to look for overall increases of more than 10 per cent. Additional investment costs also allowed for might push the figure towards 13 per cent.

Whatever the formula, this is nonsense. The Treasury did get its sums wrong last year. But other industrial concerns that have been hard hit by the Treasury's miscalculations have no special-case arrangements to recoup the cost of government mistakes from customers; nor should the electricity companies. The fact that they do may be a fault of the original formula. When Offer reviews the procedure over the next two years, it might conclude that such a deal has no place in the industry's pricing structure, and ought to be abandoned.

The government has at the heart of its economic policies the control of inflation. Every month, as the unemployment figures rise, it exhorts pay bargainings to reach wage settlements below the level of inflation. No such exhortation is made to boards in the corporate sector; investors were outraged when the chairman of Barclays Bank suggested that his bank might not be able to pay a dividend 5 per cent above inflation. There are few indications that self-discipline is applied to government activities.

If the government is to be taken seriously in wishing to reduce structural inflation, it should measure its every decision against the test of whether it will reduce or increase inflation. Only when such a rigorous criterion is uniformly applied is the public likely to be convinced that inflation is under control.

SHEPHERDS LOST

"God moves in a mysterious way," says William Cowper's hymn. His words are a comfort when, as in wartime, it is more than usually difficult to "justify God's ways to men". But Cowper would surely have been confirmed in his view had he attended an assembly of the World Council of Churches. At the WCC's seventh assembly in Canberra, on the theme of the Holy Ghost, the workings of Providence are transcending human powers of comprehension.

A draft statement to be approved today on behalf of the WCC's 316-member churches demands a ceasefire in the Gulf, an allied withdrawal and linkage to agreements on Israel and Lebanon. The resolution, which might as well have been written in Baghdad in Canberra, prompts the question: what is the WCC for?

This is not a new question. It was asked decades ago by many Christians over the WCC's support for the "armed struggle" in southern Africa. Members of the Church of England delegation in Canberra, which led criticism of the Gulf resolution, may be asking themselves the same question. The Vatican is content to send observers to these expensive septennial assemblies, though the Roman Catholic church is not a member. The theological extravagance of speeches at Canberra is apparently causing the Orthodox churches to consider withdrawing.

The egregious opportunism displayed by the WCC over the Gulf war was predictable. Things have changed since the Korean war, when the WCC supported the use of force by the United Nations against communist aggression, and its members in mainland China resigned. Yesterday the Chinese Christian Council, which is run by the

Peking government, was readmitted to the WCC, despite protests from Christians in Hong Kong and Taiwan who feel threatened by this 11-year-old pseudo-church.

Given the WCC's claim to speak for ecumenical Christianity, its status in world councils is important. It has become increasingly dominated by the familiar cocktail of an unaccountable bureaucracy, supported by Third World delegates of doubtful allegiance and an embarrassed, guilt-ridden cohort of white westerners. The WCC is not unlike other international organisations, whether political (such as the Commonwealth) or cultural (such as Unesco). Because it is now of value to both Moscow and Washington, the UN itself has never quite succumbed to this fate, though it has come perilously close at times.

Just as Unesco was forced by the withdrawal of Western funds to make an effort to weed out corruption, so the WCC should be obliged to reform itself, if necessary by the resignation of discontented member churches. Above all, more constitutional accountability would make it harder for extremists to hijack WCC assemblies.

The defunct British Council of Churches dissolved itself after much criticism, to re-emerge as the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, more representative of clergy and laymen alike. Delegates to its assemblies are bound to seek a mandate from their churches. WCC delegations should likewise be made to consult their hierarchies before committing the churches they serve. The WCC might then be listened to with respect, whether or not it considers politics to be its main preoccupation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peaslington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Planning now for after the conflict

From Mr Frank Blackaby and others

Sir, There is a temptation to argue that military logic has taken over in the enforcement process in the Gulf and that there is nothing else to be done until the war is over. This is surely wrong.

We should call for the active pursuit of diplomacy even while the war is going on, centred on the continued good offices of the United Nations secretary-general, who should be positively encouraged by the full membership of the UN in this role. The Security Council should watch carefully to ensure that the objectives of military enforcement do not go beyond those set out in its resolutions.

There are in addition immediate actions to be taken now to make military enforcement less terrible: for example, humanitarian assistance to Iraq's neighbours to help them to provide for refugees from Iraq and to provide medical help for Iraq's civilian casualties.

Looking further ahead, the main need is to strengthen and broaden the capabilities of the Security Council to act in situations of this kind. More work must be done to develop non-military methods for exerting international coercion on governments which commit aggression.

If military methods are ultimately needed, then the military forces involved should be drawn from a greater number of UN member states and should come under direct

Security Council control. The machinery for this already exists; it now needs to be made effective.

It must surely be obvious now to practically everyone that something must be done about the inequities of the arms trade, by which the industrialised countries provide the weapons which are subsequently used against their own forces. For example, Western Europe's missile technology control regime could be extended to cover many more weapon systems and more countries, including, of course, the Soviet Union.

In addition, work should begin now on planning UN observer and peacekeeping forces for Kuwait's borders and also on planning for the reconstruction needs of the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq.

The countries of the area should be encouraged to begin to develop, under the auspices of the UN, a comprehensive regional security structure which covers all the Middle East, including Israel, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza. The plan could include a nuclear, chemical and biological weapon-free zone for the whole region.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK BLACKABY (former director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute),
MALCOLM HARPER (Director, United Nations Association, UK),
A. MACKIE (Vice-President, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament),
J. ROTBLAT,
9 Pentamoor Road, SW8,
February 16.

Awards for Kuwaitis

From Mr Stefan Kemball

Sir, I was much taken with your Diary item (February 13) about Sir John Hackett's efforts after Anfal to secure medals for a dying fellow-officer's nominees. The proposals initially got nowhere: they had not been submitted on the "proper forms".

I hope that no such nonsense will prevent the award of some rather special civilian decorations — following liberation — to the many Kuwaiti families who last summer sheltered British citizens at the risk of torture and death.

These British refugees and hostages — reflecting daily, no doubt, on the fate of their former hosts — are now widely scattered across the world. I am sure that most of them will have no idea (when the time comes) how to apply for, let alone complete, "proper forms".

Can the government please assure us that red-tape will not prevent official honours for true grit?

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
STEFAN F. KEMBALL,
PO Box 3222,
United Arab Emirates,
February 17.

NUJ and the Gulf

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for 40 years. I expect and require it to represent my interests and those of fellow journalists on questions affecting conditions of employment, health and welfare and pensions and at all times to defend the freedom of the press.

I therefore support its protests against censorship which is not essential to military operations.

On the other hand, the National Executive Committee of the union has no right to purport to represent me on political matters (letters, February 18), especially when it itself is so heavily influenced by tiny groups which operate on the fringe of politics.

The NUJ executive (about 15 of whom passed the resolution opposing the war) speaks only for itself. Not for me, not for its general secretary and certainly not for its 25,000 members.

Yours sincerely,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Frith, London Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
February 18.

A 'desire for war'

From Mr A. C. Plummer

Sir, With reference to Professor Lynn's argument ("Casting our inland desire for war", February 2) and the letters you published (February 11) surely the question is not why do people form into groups in order to go to war, but why do people form into groups in the first place?

There must be some very good reason why people are willing to subordinate their own individuality to a group belief system and follow its leader. In part it is to ensure some degree of internal security for group members. Nations states and even civilisations are cases in point.

However, groups, by their very nature, are externally divisive: the "usiders" are separated from the "outsiders". As a result, any threat to a group's integrity can encourage members to do things that they wouldn't dream of doing in different circumstances. At extremes, they will commit suicide and, of course, go to war.

Doesn't this mean that the basis of war is psychological, not biological, as Professor Lynn maintains?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. PLUMMER,
Conifers, Harveststock Lane,
Little Walden, Essex,
February 12.

NHS trusts

From Dr David Lawson

Sir, Mr M. A. Nelson (February 16) suggests that the only cure for the national health service is more resources "which no amount of reorganising and efficiency can ever provide". Although the provision of extra resources might be desirable, the first priority must surely be to get the best out of the existing resources.

The work of this organisation shows that the NHS, along with many other service organisations, typically spends only 60-70 per cent of its time and money on fulfilling, as Mr Nelson put it, "its intentions". The rest is spent redoing things that were done incorrectly, doing the wrong things, waiting, wastage, etc. There is equally substantial evidence that such losses can be dramatically reduced leading to a great increase in the efficiency of the service provided and making significant cash available to extend the range of services offered.

Merely providing more money, when one pound out of every three will be wasted, is not the optimum solution.

Yours faithfully,
D. LAWSON (Director),
Croslay Associates UK Limited,
Century House,
3 Hill Street,
Richmond, Surrey,
February 18.

□ The second paragraph of Mr Nelson's letter should have ended: "Special waste lists and outpatient waiting times have... become... measures used to evaluate the success of the [NHS]".

No smoking

From Mr John W. Cairns

Sir, Your leader "No smoke without fuss" (February 15) states that it is right to allow smokers their own section on aircraft. They are not given their own section. To say smoking is allowed from row X does not stop passive smoking for the occupants of at least the next three rows of "non-smoking". If there must be allowance for smokers they should at least be seated behind a solid smoke-proof screen.

A total ban is imposed on all domestic airline flights in the USA. We look to the day when all airlines, domestic and international, follow this precedent.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. CAIRNS,
Somerset House, Oakfield,
Somerset Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

Any theory, like Lynn's, that assumes the existence of such genes lacks scientific foundation.

Yours sincerely,
ROY WILLIS,
University of Edinburgh,
(Department of Social Anthropology),
Adam Ferguson Building,
George Square, Edinburgh,
February 8.

Yours faithfully,
D. LAWSON (Director),
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3 Hill Street,
Richmond, Surrey,
February 18.

Steps to lowering interest rates

From Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cambridge and North Bedfordshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, An Irish businessman told me: When the Irish government fixed the punt in the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) none of us thought they would stick to it. But after a couple of years we said to ourselves that the punt clearly meant it. So then we asked ourselves what we were doing, paying those high interest rates to the Dublin banks. So we went off and borrowed in Amsterdam and Frankfurt and borrowed at half the interest rate — and that did wonders for the rates of interest in Ireland.

The biggest part of the difference between British interest rates and those in Amsterdam and Frankfurt is the risk premium against devaluation, which will continue so long as those who argued so long against fixing the pound pursue their lost cause by arguing for devaluation.

The future of British industry does not lie in vain attempts to reduce the cost of labour through devaluations. It lies in confidence in a stable currency which will give us the competitive interest rates needed to enable British industry to invest for the new products of the continental-scale market of the 1990s.

Yours faithfully,
FRED CATHERWOOD
(Vice-President,
European Parliament),
Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge,
February 13.

From Mrs Elspeth Huxley

Sir, In what looks increasingly like the run-up to the depression of the 1930s our government, whose first priority is to reduce inflation, has awarded (report, February 1) pay rises of up to 12 per cent (in two stages), nearly 4 per cent above the rate of inflation, to top civil servants, judges and others, thereby setting an example which has no doubt been taken note of by trade union negotiators and others.

Would they consider setting an example in the contrary, 1930-style, direction, when such pay, if my memory serves me right, was cut by about 10 per cent across the board?

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HUXLEY,
Green End, Oaksey,
Malmesbury, Wiltshire,
February 13.

From Mr A. B. M. Good

Sir, Surely a more constructive alternative to high interest rates to restrain consumer demand would be increased encouragement to saving by extending the present concessionary schemes to cover investment in the UK equity market to an agreed annual ceiling.

If, for example, equity investment through nominated bank or broker accounts for, say, a five-year period were to attract tax relief at an investor's highest rate, much of the

inherent fear of the market by unsophisticated investors would be removed.

Additionally, were capital-gains tax to be levied only at the end of the period on the difference, net of indexation relief, between the original investment and the realised proceeds, the negative effects of taxing purely notional gains would also be eliminated.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY B. M. GOOD
(Chairman, Good Consultancy Ltd),
39 Bullingham Mansions,
Kensington Church Street, W8,
February 13.

From Mr R. H. Y. Mills

Sir, Neither the economists nor the government are addressing the structural change that is required in the UK to abandon the blunt disciplinary instrument of high interest rates. High rates provide no distinction between production and consumption. The effect of lower corporate taxation has been more than compensated for by continuous high real interest rates. Corporation tax only has to be paid on profits. Interest has to be paid on working capital, whether a company is making a profit or a loss.

The last material change in taxes on consumption was the change in VAT in 1979. The scope has been marginally extended since then.

The first step should be to make interest subject to VAT. This would automatically introduce a differential cost between borrowing for value-adding and borrowing for consumption. The second step should be to widen the scope of VAT further and at the same time to introduce differential rates between zero and say 27½ per cent.

It is unpalatable for politicians to tax consumption, but if it represents the alternative to political "harshness" it may be digestible.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. Y. MILLS,
Barrington Grove, Burford, Oxford,
February 14.

From Mr Philip G. Turner

Sir, The government's response to today's letter from six respected economists appears to be that it is doing us good to be tied to the Deutschmark at current levels; but is this so?

By being tied in this way British industry and its employees are having to make economic sacrifice (through higher than needed interest costs) to help pay for German reunification. When the truth about the costs and inflationary implications of reunification become apparent the D-Mark may not be the favoured currency it now is.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP TURNER,
93 Larchall Rise,
Clapham Old Town, SW4,
February 13.

School resources

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, No one involved in education can be satisfied with the report of Her Majesty's Inspectors (details, February 14). For as long as any child gets a raw deal improvements are needed.

The report claims that some children get a raw deal because of the shortcomings of teachers but it makes clear that there are other factors damaging children's prospects.

The inadequate provision of books, the shortage of appropriate equipment, non-teaching support staff and unsatisfactory buildings are the other factors identified by the HMI which hamper children's education.

The most glaring effect of the denial of finance is shown by the HMI's comments on the state of school buildings. Nearly half the primary and 40 per cent of secondary school buildings were less than satisfactory. This is a direct result of government under-funding.

As recently as last October, the government decided to delay the application of ten-year-old school building regulations for a further five years. These regulations would have required a massive injection of money but would have resulted in dramatic improvements in accommodation to the benefit of pupils.

All these inadequacies make the teachers' job more difficult and undoubtedly cause some teachers to be less effective resulting in their pupils under-achieving.

Each of these shortcomings can be corrected but only if there is a substantial increase in resources for schools. The government's attitude is not to provide more but to provide less. The government fails our pupils more than teachers.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1,
February 14.

Elementary

From Mr G. J. Griffin

Sir, I am no Sherlock Holmes, but would not the trunk of "friend and collector of manuscripts", James Fraser Gluck (report, February 15), have been a rather obvious place to search for Mark Twain's missing *Huckleberry Finn* pages?

Yours sincerely,
G. J. GRIFFIN,
19 Kilbride Avenue,
Dunoon, Argyll.

Ebb or flow

From Mr A. Connane

Sir, Will there be a contrailflow in the London ring water main during maintenance work?

Yours sincerely,
TONY CUNANE,
14 Pelham Close, Sudbrook, Lincoln,
February 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Social fund

From Mr R. E. Morley

Sir, The National Audit Office's report (details, February 13) on the social fund confirms what many of us have been saying from the moment it was first mooted. It is not helping poor people and is probably making many of them poorer; the

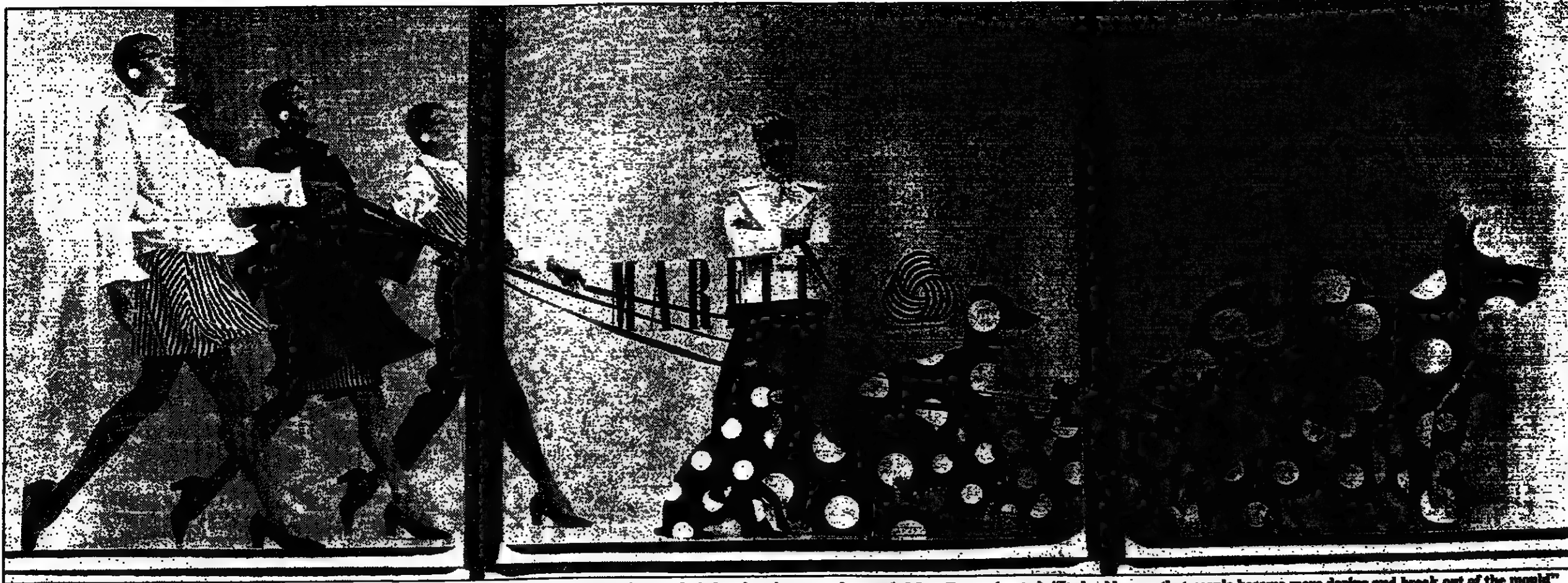
loan principle was ill-conceived from the beginning, and inevitably the principle of discretion is not only unfair but also wasteful.

All of its criticisms were made to

the reviews set up by Norman Fowler in 1985. But is there any chance that the government will take any more notice of the National Audit Office than it did of the Social Security Commission?

It is time the social fund took its place alongside that other major failure, the poll tax, and both should be scrapped at once.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. MORLEY (Director),
Family Welfare Association,
501-505 Kingsland Road, E8,
February 13.



Leading the way: the black and white display at Harvey Nichols. Recession could be good for the art of window dressing, says the spare's Mary Portas (centre). "It should mean that people become more daring and break out of the mould"

Looks terrific, but does it sell?

To celebrate London Fashion Week next month, Harvey Nichols' window displays will feature most approved of actors and fashion designers. For window design, fashion and the theatre have much in common — manipulated images, extravagant gestures and large egos.

The window is the public persona of the shop, the front that it puts up to the world. It is created by what we used to call window dressers but who now go by more exalted titles, such as visual merchandise display artists. All agree that their job comes down to selling the clothes — but the better they are at it, the less obvious that is.

"Some shops," says Paul Dyson, who runs his own consultancy but for 20 years was renowned for his windows at Harvey Nichols, "just use their windows as an extension of their stock rooms — they put raincoats in the window because they've got lots hanging up in the stock room and it's raining outside. Others launch a new designer or make an important statement."

A strong display, says Nick Grossmark, the visual and com-

In a recession, visual merchandise display artists (window dressers) meet their greatest challenge.
Dinah Hall reports

munications manager at Joseph who also designs Butler & Wilson's striking windows, can be judged in the till receipts. One of his most successful displays was the teaming of brightly coloured Sixties chairs with equally bright Isaac Mizrahi clothes. "We were literally selling them from the window," he recalls.

For Mary Portas, the head of display and visual merchandising at Harvey Nichols, wit has always been an important element of window design. The store's "animals" window last year — polecats wearing sunglasses, a centipede of stockings legs — had the audience rolling in the aisles (of the 137 bus).

Ms Portas shares the view of

other display designers that recession could be good for the art. "It should mean that people become more daring and break out of the mould. You become clever — the black and white dog windows we have at the moment were made by two carpenters on site. We're not just talking about people who can pin frocks, you know."

Mannequins are also important for putting across the message — and their style will vary according to the product they are promoting. Some customers demand the whole outfit, as styled in the window, right down to bag and belt. "In this country people need to look at windows for inspiration, whereas on the Continent it's more of an in-bred thing — putting the look together comes naturally to them," Mr Grossmark says.

In a shop such as Harvey Nichols, as Mr Dyson points out, "you don't put fat-lady frocks in the window, even though you may sell them inside". Peter Jones, on the other hand, can — probably needs to — break this rule. Its fashion windows, which sometimes seem better suited to Red Square than Sloane Square, seem designed not to intimidate.



Nick Grossmark at Butler & Wilson: "People need windows for inspiration"

Those in search of a potato peeler who wander into the fashion department by mistake may sometimes be pleasantly surprised.

Sally Graves-Lord, the design director of Issey Miyake, has a perverse soft spot for the John Lewis school of window design, which in general could not be further from her purist approach. "It's the way they line up the vacuum cleaners — it's actually very hard not to try to arrange them in a pattern."

As a rule, the more minimalist the window design the higher the price inside. Ms Graves-Lord, a textile artist with no previous experience in retail, makes a piece of artwork

inspired by the collection, four or six times a year, but she has had to resort to displaying clothes in the window because there is a danger that the Brompton Road shop might be mistaken for a gallery.

Generally, the smaller, narrower targeted shops can afford to be self-indulgent. Manolo Blahnik, the shoe designer, is a master of the art. Did balancing shoes on piles of Shreddies bring in the customers? Mr Blahnik roars with laughter at the idea. But it looks terrific. As window shopping threatens to become a compulsory pastime for more and more people, perhaps that is all that matters.

When your card is overdrawn

Designing a credit card can cost £30,000. Does plastic money need embellishment?

A STORY is circulating in the plastic card industry of a telephone complaint received recently by a bank: "I've just had a new cheque card from you," the caller said, "and I think you should know that the hologram doesn't look anything like me."

Yesterday it was reported that the government may urge banks and building societies to add holders' photographs to cards in an attempt to curb fraud. Perhaps the caller had heard the rumour.

Such confusion is hardly surprising. There are more plastic cards, performing more functions, than ever. Yet the visible signs of those functions are becoming harder to see as advertising agencies exploit their marketing potential. Not long ago, cheque guarantee cards were standardised, the only variable being the name of the bank. Now the bank is not even obliged to show its name on the card.

The front of one card, issued by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), shows a picture of a man wrestling with an improbably curved fishing rod, against a deep-blue sea and sky. In one corner is the National Federation of Sea Anglers logo. Only on the back does the bank's name appear. Nowhere does it say that this is a credit card.

The BCCI is the pioneer in Britain of the "affinity card", a cheque or credit card aimed at a specific user group. The idea originated in the

United States. The Bank of Scotland has experimented with a card designed to appeal to football fans, showing a ball about to be kicked, and with one for animal lovers showing a seal pup. The National & Provincial Building Society ran a campaign to promote its five designs of credit card, with the catchline: "Choose the image that fits your image." About half its customers are choosing pens, rather than hot air balloons, planets,



Pick up a pen: a popular new card

the earth at night or the society's logo.

Plastic is difficult to print on and a 30 per cent wastage rate is common, so each card can cost up to £1 to produce. Furthermore, designing a card can cost up to £30,000.

Mervyn Kuriansky, of Pentagram, the consultancy that helped design Barclay's Premier and Connect cards, is doubtful about some of the results. "A small area is being crammed with information," he says. "If it's a free-for-all in decoration, it's confusing."

Mr Kuriansky draws an analogy with postage stamps, which are often commissioned from an artist. "Credit cards are not too small to be beautiful," he says.

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New reasons for buying British

How the Design Council could throw off its muddled past and find a more relevant role

THE recent death of the design evangelist Lord Reilly and the forthcoming fortieth anniversary of the Festival of Britain have combined to focus fresh attention on the Design Council. In what way can it help manufacturers in what is becoming a post-industrial Britain?

The Design Council became internationally admired during Lord Reilly's years as director from 1960 to 1977, while the Festival of Britain provided a zenith in its role as catalyst to industry. Today, those heroic times, when the entire South Bank became an adventure playground for British design and architectural ideas, seem far off.

The organisation recognises that it has a lot to live up to. But it has also, in recent times, had a lot to live down. Four years ago, a notorious *Vogue* interview with Sir Simon Hornby, the incoming chairman, set feathers flying in the design establishment and made the council headline news. "Dead as a dodo" was Sir Simon's pronouncement.

Britain's war-time creation to galvanise industry to beat the world through better design had become a "faceless body" and "a total muddle".

Sir Simon, claiming the *Vogue* interview was unbalanced, survived a no-confidence vote by staff. Ivor Owen, a former industrialist, was installed in January 1988 as director-general, with a mandate to change its direction. Three years into the job, Mr Owen has now unveiled a strategy to make the council more effective in the Nineties.

At its core is his belief that it is far better to concentrate the council's limited resources — 250 staff and a £6.5 million annual grant — on a small

number of industry sectors still capable of responding to design input — furniture, textiles, building and medical products — rather than making "a general fuss" about design across the entire spectrum of manufacturing.

This marks a radical shift from the traditional Design Council consensus that it was possible to improve all of Britain's postwar industry. Mr Owen has also decided to target industry and education, rather than the public who, in the 1960s, flocked to buy British designs in the Design Centre shop near Piccadilly Circus.

The centre still exists, but the black-and-white triangle scheme has been scrapped, and the shop and café have been turned into a Young Designers' Centre. "The British public no longer needs educating," Mr Owen says. "They know all about good design, that's why they buy German cars, Italian washing machines and Japanese hi-fi."

He knows that the council's remit has long run against the tide of political commitment to manufacturing. From 1955, when manufactured exports outnumbered imports by 2.5 to 1, to 1988, when the trade deficit in manufactured goods reached £17.7 billion, the council has been adrift in what it calls "the sea of political and industrial uncertainty".

Will Mr Owen be able to claim a more pertinent role for it in the Nineties? "I don't want this country to be poor," he says. "I don't want it to be always shown the way home by the Italians, the French, the Japanese. OK, some of our industries have gone, but let's not let furniture or textiles disappear too."

JEREMY MYERSON
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There is a sadness in the...
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The Times Tuesday February 19 1991



Capturing the confusion Alice Mahler's 1990 art

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Messages shaped from the deep heart's core

There is a sadness in the history of Irish art. Much has been ignored or forgotten; many 18th- and 19th-century paintings have been subsequently reattributed. In an island rocked for centuries by political instability, native artists either gravitated to London and Paris, or risked isolation and parochialism. At the outset of the 20th century, few trends had emerged. Even abstract art came relatively late.

With the current revival of Jack B. Yeats, the painter brother of the poet W.B., and coinciding with Dublin's status as European City of Culture 1991, a tide of Hibernian art is sweeping the English shores. First port of call: Liverpool, where the Tate Gallery is exhibiting a young generation of eight contemporary Irish artists from both sides of the border.

I somehow expected to see art top-heavy with tired political messages: agit-prop about social and urban deprivation. There are messages, certainly, but they are offered up in a refreshing and surprisingly unaggressive manner. Here is more celebration and joy than grime and despair.

Alice Maher's charcoal drawings of a child growing up in rural Eire capture all the innocent joy and confusion of adolescence, with a girl depicted crawling on the floor, exploring the everyday objects

Political, and yet unaggressive: Irish contemporary art at the Liverpool Tate, reviewed by Joseph Williams

about her. Martin Wedge, born in Belfast, draws quivering human shapes, some disturbing but others soft and rounded with half-defined faces and elongated limbs: as simple and effective as the childlike figures of French artist Jean Dubuffet.

The overtly political art in this exhibition creates a sense of territory, borders and barriers. Stepping between the tall metallic sculptures by Locky Morris, which shoot up like radio monitors, the visitor has an uncanny feeling of being watched. The effect is not so much claustrophobic, as simply reinforcing a sense of isolation. In Aidan Linehan's drawings, the Irish land itself has been violated by human intrusion, by jeeps, watchtowers and IRA arms caches.

The motif of surveillance is also extended into the theme of prisons and bars — of people both locked in and locked out of their own land — in Deirdre O'Connell's series

of drawings. Remarkably, the result is not depressing, because her bars are drawn into soft circular patterns, suggesting an ancient Celtic religious site, and the ends of the bars are tipped backwards, as if votively.

Even the isolation in Jacinta Feeney's semi-abstract paintings of islands and birds is softened because the borders she paints are blurred, and the colours deep and mellow. Here is no protest art: it shows, instead, an island trying to resolve its problems, an amorphous blob of land slowly inching towards definition.

Of course, the problem for contemporary Irish art is securing its bridgehead on the British mainland. Penelope Curtis, assistant curator of the Tate Liverpool, who visited 60 studios in Ireland before making her final choice for the exhibition, believes that native artists have relatively little access to galleries within Ireland: "Artists travel readily between Northern Ireland and the Republic, but they are always aware of their own cultural territory or space. London is still seen as the Mecca of art."

The tension between parochialism and nationalism in Ireland has deeply affected its art world. The fact that a lot of Irish art now leans towards figurative work suggests that artists have strong issues to address. In the Republic, for example, where abortion and divorce are illegal, feminism has expressed itself in art. Deirdre O'Connell has no regrets about remaining in Ireland: "I feel at home in Belfast, it's somewhere I can relate to. In the Seventies, Irish art was getting internationalist in a bland way today it's more concerned with particular Irish issues."

Some London art dealers are more pessimistic. Colin Harper, director of Trinity Gallery, which deals in 20th-century British art, sees few interesting Irish trends developing: "Irish artists show little desire to bestide the European stage, or even to exhibit in London. They have been too isolated, and perhaps inhibited by a suffocating social climate."

If so, the ferry trip to Liverpool might be a sea-change for other budding Irish artists. Liverpool has always been a gateway to and from Ireland, so it is fitting that along with the Tate, Liverpool's other major art galleries — Walker Art, Bluecoat, and Open Eye — are all mounting their own exhibitions of contemporary Irish art. What they hope to show, no doubt, is that there is more to Ireland's heritage than its great literature.

Strongholds — New art from Ireland, is at the Tate Gallery Liverpool (051-709 3223) from tomorrow until April 7. Open: Tues-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat-Sun 11am-4pm (closed Mondays)



Capturing the confusion of adolescence: "Thicker", Alice Maher's 1990 mixed media/charcoal drawing



Joanne Woodward: attracted to the character "because I know Mrs Bridge very well. She is all the ladies I knew when I was growing up"

Struggle to bridge the divide

Tipped for an Oscar, Joanne Woodward tells

Anna Kythreotis how she drew on real life to create her character in *Mr and Mrs Bridge*

On the subject of film-acting, Joanne Woodward offers a brilliantly inventive analogy. Alas, it is too anatomical for a family newspaper. So instead, she paraphrases: "I hate it, and always have." That is the verdict of an actress who, by the age of 27, had won an Oscar, married Paul Newman and was apparently destined to ride the production line of Hollywood superstar treatment for the rest of her career.

Instead, she confounded the system by rejecting obvious star vehicles in favour of the eclectic and unclassifiable roles that established her as a serious actress.

Even at the height of her screen success, acting with Brando (*The Fugitive Kind*) and Orson Welles (*The Long Hot Summer*), she never considered herself primarily a screen actress. Trained at the Actors' Studio and the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York, she has always been drawn by temperament to the theatre.

But judging by the neatly piled stacks of film-scripts in the New York apartment which the Newmans refer to quaintly as "the office" (home proper is Connecticut), this is a message that film-makers have chosen to ignore. She is still much in demand, though since she resumed her stage career over a decade ago (after an absence of 20 years) she has become increasingly reluctant to go back to the camera. When she does, more often than not, it is for television.

Indeed, she originally initiated her new film, *Mr and Mrs Bridge* (released in Britain this week), as a television project. Then the director James Ivory expressed an interest, and the film —

based on the two novels by American writer Evan Connell — developed into another of those classy literary adaptations at which the Merchant Ivory partnership excels. It received all the applause, though none of the prizes, at the Venice Film Festival last year, but since then Woodward has carried off the New York Critics' Circle Award for best actress, and her performance is strongly tipped for an Oscar. Certainly, she and Newman play the film's spongy central couple with a degree of powerful understatement that emphasises both their pedigree and mutual empathy.

Mr and Mrs Bridge is an emotionally disturbing film, concerned with one basic truth: that it is impossible for two people, no matter how close, truly to know each other. Woodward was drawn to the part because "I know Mrs Bridge very well. She is all the ladies I knew when I was growing up." She was also intrigued by the structure of the two books, which cover the same period and the same events but from different eyes. "That is the beauty of it. They are about two people who are married, who live together, and yet over the period of 25 years that the books cover, there are almost no incidents common to both books. Their lives go along on dual-track. That's moving and sad, but also quite true to life."

Born in Georgia, Woodward is familiar with the sensibilities and the gentle oppression that governs the territory of the story. "I identify with Mrs Bridge in almost every way because there was nothing of Mrs Bridge that I hadn't experienced either directly or indirectly. I'm a feminist, but one who emerged from exactly Mrs Bridge's background, imbued with all the same attributes. To get through all of that — to be able to emerge and see yourself as a separate identity, as a woman — is like struggling out of molasses. It's part of the struggle of women of my generation, particularly those who were raised in societies like Mrs Bridge's."

Woodward is known never to talk about the mechanisms of her performances. "I wouldn't know how," she says with the directness that characterises her conversation and prickles at pretension. Nor does she discuss her films — largely because she rarely sees them, and then only "with my hands over my face. I don't like watching myself on screen. It's embarrassing."

Asked why, given her attitude, she remained in films for so long, she replies with disarmingly frankness. "Sheer stupidity. At the time I went into films it was the thing to do. I was

easily led. Also, I gained success very early, and that was seductive. Hollywood was much more important then. When you were under studio contract, as Paul and I were, you really made a life in films, and films were made in Hollywood. In those days there was no theatre in California and it was hard to take the time off to come back east and do a play. I always envied English actors who could do both."

The Hollywood tribulations she describes have certainly not left their mark on her appearance: an elegant and energetic woman, she looks a good 20 years off the pensionable age that the record books give her. Yet her age was a significant factor in her decision to return to the stage. "When I got into my late forties I realised that there were not many parts for women in film that were interesting. So I preferred to go back to the stage, where they were. And now I'm really sorry I let so many years go by."

Now, with her own kind of elegant zeal, she has progressed from acting to directing and, more recently, writing for the medium that gives her the intellectual stimulation she missed during her screen career. Woodward also resumed the bachelor degree course she began in 1947 and abandoned when her theatre studies took over. She graduated last year and indicates her graduation photographs with pride. "I loved studying. I'm going back now to get a master's degree," she says, adding wistfully, "I'll probably be a hundred by the time I finish that."

● *Mr and Mrs Bridge*, which opens at the Curzon, Mayfair, on Friday, will be reviewed in The Times on Thursday

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Packing a sting in the tale

RECORDINGS of Peter and the Wolf tend to be beset by the self-conscious, the condescending or the unavailably thespian in their narration. How refreshing, then, and just in time for Prokofiev's 100th birthday, to find this new recording with Sting offering a robust, rough and ever-ready 26 minutes of tale-telling.

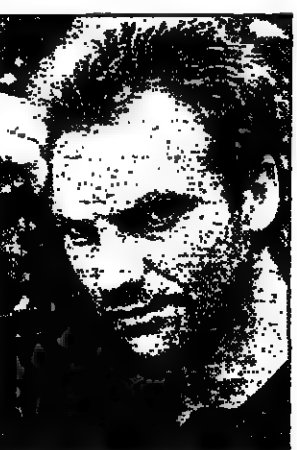
Sting's own subtly revised narration was child-vetted, as was Prokofiev's own original piano version of the piece, in which he was prevailed upon to play the concluding march three times over. It is tempting to get the laser to do exactly the same here, so rhythmically well sprung, so sharp and high-stepping is the Chamber Orchestra of Europe's performance of the final triumphant procession.

Abbado's pacing, like Sting's narration, is highly strung and witty; the finesse of the orchestra's soloists provides a nice foil for the rough edges of Sting's voice. No detail goes unobserved. The shadow of irony behind Sting's comment that "boys like him are simply not afraid of wolves" is countered by the oboe's wry threnody at the tail (or feather?) end of the wolf's digestive processes.

The same soloists who made a pedigree Russian Blue of the clarinet-cut and a colling tremolo for the violin-lasos, excel themselves in Prokofiev's 1934 chamber-orchestra arrangement of the *Overture on Hebrew Themes*. The spirit of the original piano, clarinet and string quartet version glints through this amplification; with Stefan Vladar's piano dancing through its delicately balanced textures.

The Opus 99 March, clean as a whistle in its violin line and debonair trumpets, acts as curtain-raiser, and a gracious, glassy performance of the Classical Symphony as finale

Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf. Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Abbado/Sting. DG 429 396-2. Prokofiev: Classical Symphony. London Music/Sydney. Conifer CDCF 173. Prokofiev: Piano Sonatas Vol 3. John Lill. ASV CD DCA 755.



Sting: subtle narrator of Peter and the Wolf

to this outstanding celebratory release.

London Music's birthday offering cannot hope to compete in terms of sophistication: its *Hebrew Overture* is weighed down with schmaltz, its Classical Symphony robust but rough-hewn. Instead, this young chamber orchestra, under Mark Stephenson, adds to its already enterprising list of recorded rarities by presenting the unpredictable: a concerto which is really a sonata, and a solo masquerading as an ensemble.

David Oistrakh once put it to Prokofiev that his Flute Sonata in D, Op 94, would sound good on the violin, and the composer took him up on it. In yet a further metamorphosis of this bright butterfly of a work, Christopher Palmer has dared to turn it into little short of a concerto for orchestra. Jonathan Snowden plays the

dominating flute part, and has to contend with some muscular pizzicato chase, a frantic woodwind and percussion romp in the finale of this well-measured orchestration.

Prokofiev wrote his 1947 Sonatas for a group of unaccompanied violins in unison, but so winsome was it as a solo party piece that it is still seldom played in its original form. London Music give it a lusty, resonant premiere recording, sounding at times like a self-styled Soviet Strathpey society.

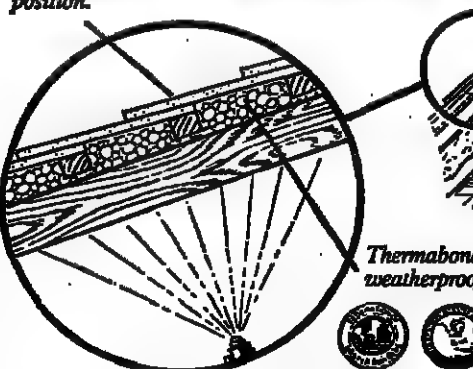
With Evgeny Kissin's outstanding and precocious performance of the first of Prokofiev's "war" sonatas still ringing in the ears, John Lill's recent recording of the Seventh and Eighth Sonatas, the remaining two of the trilogy, is in many ways something of an anticlimax. This third volume of his Prokofiev project, and particularly the Seventh Sonata, is low on that white brilliance of timbre, that peak of nervous and physical tension which made Sviatoslav Richter observe that this was indeed music "reflecting a world without reason or equilibrium". Lill's playing, though, is high on clarity and laconism, and these, after all, were Prokofiev's two great self-confessed principles in his piano writing.

He works his way through the apparently formless but complex inner life of the Eighth Sonata's long first movement with a clear sighted and single-minded strength of finger and of mind. Still more at home in the post-war Ninth Sonata, Lill offers a firm line through its whimsical storytelling and reveals the wide-eyed Cinderella child in Prokofiev that surfaces so beguilingly in the Andante's faux-naïveté.

HILARY FINCH

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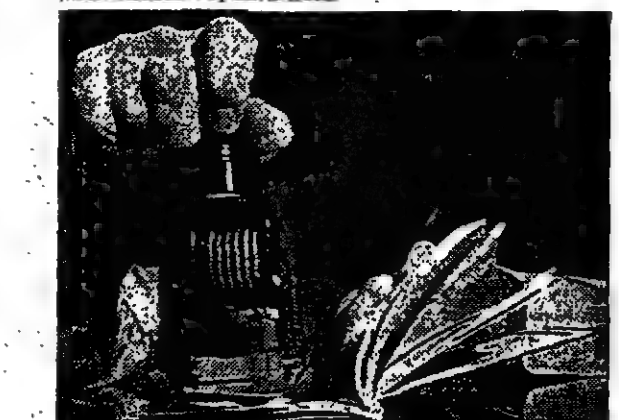
8.00 *Coffee*
8.30 *Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer
9.05 *Kilroy*, a comedy by Sir Kenneth Williams, a discussion on child safety in the playground
9.50 *Daytime on Two*, a comedy by Sir Kenneth Williams, a discussion on child safety in the playground
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays 10.25 *Bunty*, cartoon fun (r) 10.35 *Going for Gold* (r)
11.00 *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *People Today*, includes *Health UK* presented by Marilyn Lewis
12.00 *News*, regional news and weather 12.05 *Rosemary Conley's Diet* and *Fitness Club*, exercise and workouts 12.20 *Scene Today*, the daily entertainment show from Pebble Mill 12.55 *Regional News* and weather
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton, weather
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2.15 *Film: The Last of Mrs. Cheney* (1937, b/w), Fay Cheney (Joan Crawford) arrives in London to be introduced into high society, where she steals more than one aristocratic heart. But outward appearances can be deceptive and Cheney isn't all that she seems. Directed by Richard Boleslawski, Northern Ireland: Open House 3.00 *Best of British* 3.25 *The Finest Hours*
3.50 *Stitch*, how to make interesting artefacts from household junk 4.05 *Jimbo and the Jet Set*, cartoon (r) 4.10 *Jackanory*, Victoria Wood with part two of Roald Dahl's classic children's novel *Matilda* (r) 4.20 *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*, cartoon (r) 4.35 *The Real McCoy*, a comedy series, (Ceebeak)
5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Grange Hill*, episode 13, (Ceebeak)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r), (Ceebeak) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 *Inside Ulster*
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford, weather
6.30 *Regional News*, Northern Ireland: *Neighbours* 7.00 *Hollyday 91*, a special edition devoted to Greece, (Ceebeak)
7.30 *EastEnders*, the comedy soap celebrates its fourth year and Ethel in Albert Square celebrates her 75th, (Ceebeak)
8.00 *Dad's Army*, Brian Warner, the inept Home Guard of Werrington-on-Sea faces a matter of honour when the officer in charge of Home Guard training forms an elite unit without selecting any of Manning's men (r), (Ceebeak)
8.30 *A Question of Sport*, David Coleman referees as captains Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham battle it out in the popular quiz of sporting knowledge, joining them are Eamonn Martin, Wade Dooley, Bryan Robson and Emma Jane Mac, (Ceebeak)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Marilyn Lewis, (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather
9.30 *Speaker*, since the success of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, little has been heard of Jimmy Neil, but he has bounced back into the public's consciousness as *Speaker* under a pseudonym, working methods and the dress sense of a Michael Foot, (Ceebeak) Wales, Week in Week Out 10.00 *Speaker*



On location: Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Connery (10.25pm)

10.25 *Omibus*, inside The Russia House.
 @ CHOICE: When is a film plug not a plug? When it is dressed up as a deeply perceptive discourse on the nature of spying and betrayal and perestroika. Kim Evans's documentary follows the last and crew of John Le Carré's *The Russia House* to the Soviet Union. There is the ending of the cold war and the film can actually be shot where it is set. For the same reason Le Carré's book can be sold in Moscow. Le Carré pontificates at length on the spy business, seldom in words of one syllable. Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer (who seems strangely cast as a Russian) supply the requisite celebrity interviews. It is a pity more is not said about the genesis of the project, particularly in view of Hollywood's reported hostility, or about the experience of filming in the Soviet Union. And what about that pump, white-haired actor who looks and sounds suspiciously like Ken Russell? What is he doing in front of the cameras? We should be told. Wales: 10.55-11.45 *Omibus*; Northern Ireland: 1992 - the European Challenge 10.55-11.40 *Open House*
11.15 *Film 91* with Barry Norman, with reviews of *Pacific Heights*, *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge* and *The Russia House*
11.45 *Speaker* for Mrs. Robert Litch stars as the Boston-based private detective, Northern Ireland: 11.40-12.30 *Omibus*
12.30pm *Weather*, Wales: Film 91, 1.00 *News* and weather

6.45 *Open University: Discovering Physics* 7.10 *Getting Started with Your Computer*, ends at 7.55
8.00 *News* 8.15 *Westminster*, a round-up of yesterday's business in the House and in the Commons
9.00 *Daytime on Two*, a comedy by Sir Kenneth Williams, a discussion on child safety in the playground
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Stepping down on his legs: a German border guard (7.45pm)

7.45 *Assignment: Stepping Down*, a comedy by Sir Kenneth Williams, a discussion on child safety in the playground
8.00 *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays 10.25 *Bunty*, cartoon fun (r) 10.35 *Going for Gold* (r)
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6.00 *TV-am*
6.25 *Guinness Report* 9.40 *Thames News* and weather
9.45 *The Time ... The Place ...* John Stepten chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.30 *This Morning*, Family magazine series
12.05 *Foot, Jane and Freddy*, the two singing magical songs 12.25 *Thames News* and weather
12.30 *Home and Away* 1.50 *A Country Practice*
1.20 *Take the High Road*, Highland drama serial
2.50 *One Up a Tree*, a comedy series 3.15 *News* headlines 3.20 *Thames News* headlines 3.25 *Family*, soap set in Australia and the north of England
3.55 *Joan Smith and the Concert* 4.05 *The Return of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, a comedy series about a family doctor and a night nurse
5.00 *Home and Away* (r)
5.30 *News* (Ceebeak) weather
5.55 *Thames News*, Details of the Planning Act for London service
6.00 *Blockbusters*, General knowledge quiz for teenagers
6.30 *Thames News*
7.00 *Emmerdale*, Rural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Ceebeak)
7.30 *Thames Report: Homes for Homes*, Although the government is committed to clearing council houses from the streets of London, are the homeless prepared to move?
8.00 *Guinness Report* followed by *The Bill: Kids Don't Cry Anymore*, Giddy and realistic police series. Harry Hopwood, a former commander, arrives at Sun Hill with valuable information which Roach is asked to follow up. Unfortunately, Roach is far from pleased about the matter as he and Hopwood are old enemies. (Ceebeak)
8.30 *Fiddlers Three: The Scappagone*
 @ CHOICE: Eric Chappell, who seems to write most of the sitcoms on ITV, has recycled one of his shows from the mid-Seventies, *Squirrels*, to present the comic adventures of a group of office workers. Peter Davison, in another variation on his genial wimp role, plays one of three executives in a company accounts department caught between the boss's whims and the whims of a leggy blonde secretary and insolent boss. Echoing Reginald Perrin's C.J., the boss is called J.J. The sub-strand involves Davison struggling to make ends meet at home, with his capable, compliant wife (Paula Wilcox) and three truculent children. The show relies heavily on the stage tropes of farce and is likely to be its most successful good natured and comfortable predictability. (Ceebeak)
9.00 *Minder: The Wrong Goodbye*, George Cole and Dennis Waterman star as the lovable London rogues (r) (Ceebeak)
10.00 *News* at Ten (Ceebeak) and weather 10.35 *Thames News* and weather
10.45 *David Duggan and the Quest for the Magic Finger*, Naturalists David and Les Duggan travel to a remote corner of the island of Madagascar in search of the elusive, a member of the lemur family and one of the rarest animals in the world. Followed by *Guinness Report*
11.50 *Cockney Darts Classic*, The men's final and the women's semi-final
12.00am *This Week - 35 Years On The Front Line*, The series of reports first seen in *The Week* continues with a film about the miners' strike of 1972
1.10 *Video View*, Manilla Frosling runs through the latest video releases, including *Wild At Heart* and *Show of Force*
1.40 *How Was It For You*, Henry Kelly's guests are Jayne Irving, Celia Bayfield and Benice Reading, who discuss how their weight has affected their lives
2.10 *After The World is Full of Married Men* (1979), Carol Baker and Anne Francis star in this late 1970s comedy about a woman who discovers her advertising executive husband has been unfaithful and decides to pay him back in kind. Directed by Robert Young
4.00 *Entertainment UK*, A guide to what's on in Britain
5.00 *Coming Attraction*, Paul Dooley plays Dick Dale in this comedy about a reformed crime pilot and his family (r)
5.30 *ITN Morning News*, ends at 6.00



Making ends meet: Peter Dinklage and Paula Wilcox (5.30pm)

6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*, With the latest developments in the Gulf war. Also includes *Business Daily*, *Box Office* and *Early Bird*
9.25 *Schools*
12.05 *The Parliament Programme* presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 *Business Daily*, Financial and business news service
1.00 *Sesame Street*, Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 *Film: The Unseen* (1945, b/w) An enthralling thriller about a young girl (Gail Russell) who comes to a mysterious home to work as a governess for the two young children of a widower (Joel McCrea). Once there she is drawn into a web of murder and suspense. Directed by Lewis Allen 3.30 *Furings*, Animated version of a Swiss children's story
3.45 *Third Wave*, The series for older viewers takes a trip to America and explores attitudes towards senior citizens there. For many of the over-65s, the American dream has come true and they have become a force to be reckoned with, wielding enormous economic and political strength (Teletext)
4.30 *Countdown*, Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whitley
5.00 *Boon!* Magazine programme for children and teenagers with special needs. In this programme Andrew Miller enlists the aid of local children to help him explore Glasgow and Jane Parrotte is joined by gardening expert Nick Boyes who helps her plant a wildlife pond. Plus music from the first contestants in the *Boon!* music search
5.30 *Same Difference*, A new series of the highly successful magazine programme, which takes a topical look at the facts of life for the five million disabled people in Britain. Presented by Libby Cross
6.00 *Dust*, Romantic sitcom set in Los Angeles
6.30 *Remake*, British version of the MTV hit comedy quiz show, which is both raucous and bizarre. Hosted by Anthony H. Wilson with Frank Sclafonino
7.00 *Channel 4 News*, (Teletext)



Their son is in Broadmoor: Randolph and Rita Ince (8.00pm)

8.00 *The Black Bag: Randolph's Story*
 @ CHOICE: A new series on black issues opens strongly with the case of Randolph Ince, who has been in psychiatric hospitals for eight years and is currently detained in Broadmoor with the likes of Ian Brady and the Yorkshire Ripper. The film argues persuasively that he should not be there, being the victim of wrong diagnosis and a disastrous over-prescription of drugs which has led to him growing breasts and producing milk. The film further claims that part of the trouble is being black, suggesting that the British mental health system tends to hypocritically blacks as threatening and to treat them accordingly. At school Ince was a prelate, a good chess player and regarded as university material. His horrifying descent started from an apparently trivial incident in which he hit his sister with a belt. He is now 30 and despite two reports highly critical of his treatment seems trapped in the system for ever
8.30 *Nature Watch: Chimps In Crisis*, In this new series of the natural history programme the spotlight falls on man's closest relative in the animal kingdom - the chimpanzee - and investigates how the bloodline between these animals and humans is instrumental in the crisis they now face
9.00 *Without Walls: For Love Or Money*, In this regular peek behind the scenes of the hit medical drama *Without Walls*, the auction of valuable works of art in the aftermath of Polly Pack's collapse. There is also advice for those benefiting from the collapse in the contemporary art market, a report on art in the garden and how to prevent it from being stolen, and Mavis Harvin discovers that there are still bargains to be found in the jewellery market if you know what to look for
10.00 *Encore: The Moving Finger*, This week's European police drama features Spain's Inspector Crespo who is investigating the murder of a glamorous chorus girl
11.00 *The Open Wintry Show*, The queen of the audience chat shows receives two late-night slots to add to the afternoon extravaganza, allowing her to discuss adult topics such as, in the edition, the best ways to seduce members of the opposite sex
11.30 *Channel 4 News* - Midnight Special, The latest news, developments, analysis and speculation from the Gulf. Ends at 2.00am

ANGLIA 5.00pm-5.30 *Black-As* 5.30-6.00 *Black-As* 6.00-6.30 *Black-As* 6.30-7.00 *Black-As* 7.00-7.30 *Black-As* 7.30-8.00 *Black-As* 8.00-8.30 *Black-As* 8.30-9.00 *Black-As* 9.00-9.30 *Black-As* 9.30-10.00 *Black-As* 10.00-10.30 *Black-As* 10.30-11.00 *Black-As* 11.00-11.30 *Black-As* 11.30-12.00 *Black-As* 12.00-12.30 *Black-As* 12.30-1.00 *Black-As* 1.00-1.30 *Black-As* 1.30-2.00 *Black-As* 2.00-2.30 *Black-As* 2.30-3.00 *Black-As* 3.00-3.30 *Black-As* 3.30-4.00 *Black-As* 4.00-4.30 *Black-As* 4.30-5.00 *Black-As* 5.00-5.30 *Black-As* 5.30-6.00 *Black-As* 6.00-6.30 *Black-As* 6.30-7.00 *Black-As* 7.00-7.30 *Black-As* 7.30-8.00 *Black-As* 8.00-8.30 *Black-As* 8.30-9.00 *Black-As* 9.00-9.30 *Black-As* 9.30-10.00 *Black-As* 10.00-10.30 *Black-As* 10.30-11.00 *Black-As* 11.00-11.30 *Black-As* 11.30-12.00 *Black-As* 12.00-12.30 *Black-As* 12.30-1.00 *Black-As* 1.00-1.30 *Black-As* 1.30-2.00 *Black-As* 2.00-2.30 *Black-As* 2.30-3.00 *Black-As* 3.00-3.30 *Black-As* 3.30-4.00 *Black-As* 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BUSINESS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Court rules on Clowes

THE government has recovered some of the £150 million it has paid to compensate investors in Barlow Clowes, which collapsed in 1988 owing about £190 million.

A judgment in the High Court ruled that £550,000 should be paid to the government by A C D Miller, a firm of chartered accountants in Fareham, Hampshire, who acted as a financial adviser and whose clients suffered losses when Barlow Clowes crashed.

Quoted UK falls

Quoted UK, the aggregate of quoted companies monitored by Hoare Govett, the securities house, reports pre-tax profits falling last year.

Reaching the parts, page 21

FII slides

FII Group, the footwear and scientific group, was hit by exchange rate movements in the six months to end-November. Pre-tax profits eased from £4.02 million to £3.7 million. Discounting last year's special 1p payment, the interim dividend rises to 5p a share (4p).

Ashted hit

Pre-tax profits fell to £2.51 million (£3.64 million) in the six months to end-October at Ashted Group, the plant hire firm. The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.1p.

Temps, page 21

Barrett warns

Shares in Henry Barrett, the steel and industrial products company, dropped 11p to 81p, after a profits warning for the year to end-August.

Temps, page 21

Sales figures confirm gloom in high street

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

RETAIL spending continued to fall in January, but the picture of unremitting gloom in Britain's high streets was partly relieved by an upward revision in December sales figures.

These suggested retailers enjoyed at least a considerable boost by bringing forward the discounting which normally begins in the New Year.

However, there was some unexpectedly good news from the government on the public sector borrowing figures also released yesterday. These showed an unexpectedly large surplus of £5 billion in the public sector accounts during January and suggested that the Treasury might well be able to hit the target of a £3 billion public sector debt repayment for the present financial year.

But government officials gave a warning that the 1991-2 financial year, beginning in April, would almost certainly see a sharp swing into deficit in the government's budget.

The abrupt slowdown in the economy since the summer had not yet impinged fully on the government's tax and spending figures, they said. By the time the impact of recession had fully worked through the government's accounts, a public sector borrowing requirement of £10 billion was quite possible, even

without any discretionary tax cuts or increases in public spending, they said.

The January borrowing figures, which showed a very sharp increase in inland Revenue tax payments, reflected corporate taxes on profits earned in early 1990, before the recession, they said. Inland Revenue receipts in January came to £13.96 billion, compared with £12.97 billion a year earlier. By contrast Customs and Excise receipts, which are more directly related to current business activity, showed a fall to £3.73 billion from £3.99 billion in January last year.

On retail sales, the Central Statistical Office reported that sales volumes in January fell by a provisional 1.4 per cent, after rising 1.7 per cent in December. The index of retail sales volumes stood at 120.8 in January, 1.1 per cent below its level a year earlier, but still above the recession low point of November last year.

Looking at three month averages, which are considered a better guide to underlying trends than the erratic monthly figures, government statisticians said retail sales volumes were 1 per cent lower than a year earlier and ½ per cent down on the August to October period.

The retail sales figures were described as disappointing by shopkeepers and economists, because they showed that shops were failing to tempt customers with record price cuts in the January sales. Last week's retail price figures revealed the biggest price reduction for household goods in January since records started in 1956 as shops tried desperately to woo customers. Prices for clothing and footwear plunged by their sharpest amount for 70 years, said the CSO. The value of retail sales was up by 5 per cent on a year earlier, a disappointingly small figure, given that retail price inflation has been running at over 9 per cent.

Private economists had expected the January retail sales data to show a drop, but the 1.4 per cent fall was above their general 1.2 per cent forecast.

"These figures show the economy is still contracting and at quite a rapid rate," said Simon Knapp, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The difficulties facing retailers was underlined by a Confederation of British Industry survey released yesterday which showed retailers recorded their first drop in January business on an annual basis since the poll began in 1983.

The Retail Consortium, the trade organisation, said today's CSO figures painted a far rosier picture than applied in many sectors.



Another top post: Christopher Tugendhat, who is to become the chairman of Abbey

Abbey appoints Tugendhat

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, is to become chairman of Abbey National after Sir Campbell Adamson retires at the end of June.

The arrival of Sir Christopher, who is also deputy chairman of National Westminster Bank, could herald the start of concerted European expansion by Abbey.

Sir Christopher, a former European commissioner, was recommended by Sir Campbell as his successor. Sir Campbell said his successor's European experience will come in useful at Abbey, which has just been granted a

Spanish banking licence. Sir Campbell, aged 68, is leaving two years before the bank's retirement age. "I have an inward worry about an institution having the same chairman for too long. One doesn't want people going round saying he's past it. I had done the job long enough."

A former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Campbell joined Abbey in 1976 and has been chairman for 12 years. He said his greatest moment at the bank was the group's 1989 stock-market flotation. As a commissioner from 1977 to 1985, Sir Christopher

was in charge of the European Community budget and financial institutions. He was also an MP and a *Financial Times* journalist. At the CAA, he has championed the need for more investment in air transport and the deregulation of airport landing rights. He will remain chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Sir Christopher is the second NatWest director to join Abbey since its flotation. Charles Villiers, who left NatWest after the Blue Arrow affair, is the bank's Abbey's business development director.

BET to cut costs and may sell Biffa

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BET, the business services group, has announced the outcome of a cost-cutting strategic review of its operations, including the possible sale of its Biffa waste management subsidiary.

The shake-up is aimed at restoring investor confidence after a dramatic one-day collapse in the share price. On February 1, shares fell from 135p to 65p before closing at 100p. BET also confirmed Sir Timothy Bevan is to step down as chairman. He retires in May on reaching his 64th birthday and will be replaced by Nicholas Wills, now chief executive.

Mr Wills said Sir Timothy had indicated in November his wish to retire in May and was not acting in response to pressure from shareholders or non-executive directors. Sir Timothy will remain on the board as a non-executive director until he is 65.

The review of the company's operations will save about £20 million annually through overhead reductions and cuts in the number of management layers, Mr Wills said. The company has also reaffirmed its intent to expand by organic growth and joint ventures rather than by acquisitions.

The joint venture method will be used to develop capital-intensive operations that require investment to maintain strong market positions.

Mr Wills said he had already received enquiries from "several" interested parties about a joint venture partnership or outright sale of Biffa. The subsidiary made operating profits of £13.9 million last year and analysts expect Biffa to sell for £200 million to £250 million. A sale would substantially ease the pressure on BET's balance sheet, which is 90 per cent geared.

Mr Wills confirmed that analysts' profit expectations for the year ending March 31 "should be achievable even in the current difficult trading conditions".

Forecasts were downgraded from about £250 million to a range of £220 million to £230 million after the bear raid this month. BET shares closed up 7p at 129p.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9595 (-0.0120)
German mark 2.9098 (+0.0038)
Exchange index 94.2 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1842.6 (+18.1)
FT-SE 100 2318.3 (+21.4)
New York Dow Jones Closed
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 26230.01 (+886.27)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Pateron Zoch 330p (+12p)
Dunelm 355p (+20p)
J Hensons 327p (+14p)
Smedleys 725p (+12p)
General Whitley 324p (+10p)
CPI 238p (+13p)
Countrywide 120p (+11p)
M J Gerson 615p (+10p)
Heywood Williams 282p (+10p)
J Mowlem 305p (+10p)
Redland 415p (+14p)
Seetley 190p (+10p)
G Wimpey 397p (+10p)
Bacleys 335p (+10p)
General Accident 245p (+15p)
Taylor Woodrow 274p (+10p)
Tisbury Group 605p (+35p)

FALLS:
Whit Smith 85p (-28p)
Wm Smith 352p (-11p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 12½%
3-month Interbank 12½-13%
3-month sterling bill 12½-12¾%
US Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 5½%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.93-5.91%
3-year bonds 8½-8.75%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.9595
£ DM1.4775
£ Sfr1.2882
£ FF9.015
£ Yen135.55
£ Index 50.3
ECU 10.741970
SDR 13.7673
£ SDR1.367225

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$364.80 pm \$363.75
close \$363.70 364.20 (£185.50)
186.00
New York:
Comex \$365.35-366.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$17.20 bid (\$17.60)
Dundee Frisco's close

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Rate
Australia	2.65
Austria	2.65
Belgium	2.65
Canada	2.65
Denmark	2.65
France	2.65
Germany	2.65
Greece	2.65
Hong Kong	2.65
India	2.65
Italy	2.65
Japan	2.65
Netherlands	2.65
Portugal	2.65
Spain	2.65
Sweden	2.65
Switzerland	2.65
Taiwan	2.65
USA	2.65
Yugoslavia	2.65

City Gate Estates and Alpha collapse

By MATTHEW BOND

THE collapse in commercial property values has claimed its first significant overseas victim, with City Gate Estates going into administration.

City Gate was taken over last year by Accura, a Swedish investment company, run by Frederik Gyllenhammar, in a £22 million agreed deal.

The property company's problem is, however, that it is owed more than £16 million by Heathmount Investments, the buyer of a completed office development in Hammersmith, west London.

Phil Wallace and Tim Hayward of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the administrators, will take legal action against Heathmount Investments and Pharoah Holdings, the Saudi-backed company that guaranteed the deal. The sale was agreed in 1988.

The administrators are confident of recovering the money. If successful, City Gate will have £35 million of assets, a sum broadly matching its liabilities.

City Gate was set up in 1985 under the Business Expansion Scheme.

James Gulliver, chairman, and Andrew de Candole, managing director, brought the company to the Unlisted Securities Market in 1988.

Less than two years after Alpha Estates arrived on the USM, the Sheffield commercial property developer has gone into receivership. Alpha came to the market through a share placing at 75p a share. The shares were suspended yesterday at 5p.

Opec members seek quotas

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL price weakness has prompted several members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to renew calls for production quotas to be restored to stabilise the market.

Indonesia and Algeria, whose oil minister, Sadek Bousenna, is president of Opec, want to summon members to a special meeting to discuss ways of removing an oil surplus in an effort to force crude back up to Opec's reference price of \$21 a barrel.

Their calls, however, are likely to be ignored without the support of Saudi Arabia, which produces a third of Opec's output. Mr Bousenna's call for a meeting next Monday has received a cool response and Opec's next scheduled meeting is on March 11.

Oil analysts, most of whom wrongly forecast a sharp increase in prices on the outbreak of war in the Gulf, are reluctant to make predictions about the impact of peace on the market. None the less,

most expect further weakness as Western nations release oil that was stockpiled to soften the impact of damage to Saudi oil installations.

This threat has alarmed smaller Opec producers, who are already pumping as much oil as they can. Indonesia has been able to increase production by only 150,000 barrels per day since its official quota of 1.51 million was suspended in response to the loss of oil from Iraq and Kuwait. Algeria's present capacity is no higher than its quota of 800,000 bpd.

By contrast, Saudi Arabia has increased output from 5.4 million bpd to more than 8 million bpd and, with Iraq and Kuwait offstream, is in a stronger position than usual to dictate Opec's next move.

Unless fighting has ended, the next meeting is likely to focus on monitoring the market and assessing stock levels. North Sea Brent for delivery in April fell 29 cents to below \$17 a barrel again yesterday. The day's low was \$16.45.

Capital stake sold

By MARTIN WALLER

HAVAS, the French advertising agency, will control a 20.6 per cent stake in Capital Radio, the London radio station, under a deal being arranged by an investment vehicle of three Capital directors.

David Maule-finch, founder and board member, has bought the 4.6 per cent stake in Capital formerly held by

Owen Oyston, the media magnate who runs Trans World Communications, through his Dominant Investments, where two other directors have interests and which already holds 16 per cent. Havas is in talks to acquire 51 per cent of Dominant, and Mr Maule-finch has agreed to sell the Oyston stake to the French if that deal does not go ahead.

Turriff shares plunge

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Turriff Corporation, the plant hire and construction group, fell 29p to 95p after it said that it made a loss last year and would not be paying a final dividend.

The company said it had reviewed the carrying value of its joint venture property developments and, as a result, would be making provisions against some of the developments in last year's accounts.

Turriff anticipates the elimination of the group's trading profit and a pre-tax loss of £1 million for the year to end-December.

The company has identified areas of potential cash savings and intends to repay a £2 million pension fund surplus to the group. Turriff made interim pre-tax profits of £1.65 million last year.

Staff protest at Barclays job cuts

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR John Quinton, chairman of Barclays Bank, has provoked a protest after he revealed news of up to 17,000 job losses before informing the staff.

Sir John's announcement that the bank is planning to cut 15 to 20 per cent of its workforce in the next five years came as a complete surprise to most in the bank as well as officials at the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu).

John Brawley, an assistant secretary who handles negotiations with Barclays, said he was angered by the news. "This has come right of the blue for us and the bank's central personnel department."

"The captain and the navigator have lost sight of their objectives and they are throwing the crew overboard instead. They seem to have decided they can run the bank without its staff," he said. Mr Brawley said he did not believe the

bank could make the cuts without compulsory redundancies. A bank spokeswoman said most would be through natural wastage but did not rule out redundancies.

Other banks, including TSB and Midland, have warned Bifu leaders before announcing staff cuts. Barclays, unlike other banks, has in the past refused to sign a security of employment agreement with Bifu. These agreements guarantee that redundancies are kept to a minimum in any cutbacks.

The International Stock Exchange said there had been no complaints about Sir John's announcement even though he also played down hopes of a large dividend increase ten days before the bank's preliminary figures. The exchange's continuing obligations department normally rebukes companies in private if it believes they have informally released price-sensitive information.

The news of job losses, in a newspaper

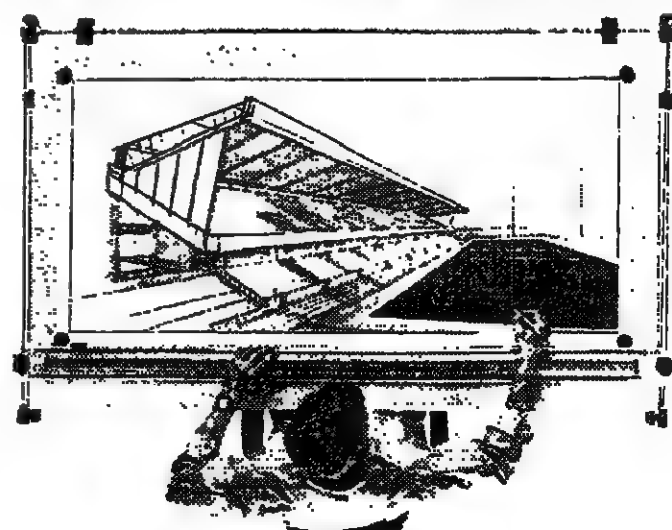
interview, could not have come at a more sensitive time for Barclays, since Bifu leaders were yesterday due to meet bank executives to discuss the bank's 7 per cent pay offer.

The meeting has been postponed until today due to the traffic disruption in London caused by the closure of all the mainline stations.

Bifu, which represents 17,000 Barclays' employees, has rejected the pay offer and is claiming 14 per cent. The union has now asked the bank to include jobs in the negotiations. "The bank is deliberately linking pay to jobs and is scaremongering among its staff," said Mr Brawley. He gave a warning that unless the bank was flexible in the negotiations he would have to advise Bifu members on what action they should take. The Barclays' spokeswoman said the offer was not negotiable.

Comment, page 21

The pen is mightier than the fire extinguisher.



Some of the best fire fighting happens long before there's a fire to fight. On the drawing board.

British Steel has been involved at this stage for several years now.

Testing steel-framed structures in all kinds of fire. Passing the results to engineers, architects and the relevant authorities. And advising on plans at the design stage.

(We've made safety recommendations on new stands at Murrayfield and Twickenham, to name just two.)

We're happy to help.

Because the more thinking that goes on before the unthinkable happens, the more chance there is of controlling the consequences.



British Steel: adding value

Clothing share rises at M&S

By Gillian Bowditch

MARKS and Spencer, Britain's biggest fashion retailer, has increased its share of the £16.7 billion British clothing market, in spite of the recession. M&S has not sacrificed trading margins to attract the extra sales, a new report says.

The group's share of all consumer spending on clothing has grown from 15.2 per cent to 16 per cent for the year to last March, according to the report from Verdict Research, the research group. Verdict forecasts further growth for M&S in the current year to take its market share to 16.4 per cent.

Clothing was one of the fastest growing retail sectors during the Eighties but growth came to a standstill at the end of the decade. At current prices, total expenditure on clothing grew 70 per cent between 1983 and 1990 with much of this growth before 1988.

At constant prices (minus inflation) there has been a 3 per cent decline in sales.

Women's wear is the largest component of the clothing market, accounting for £8 billion, or 48 per cent of total sales. Menswear has been badly hit by the downturn in consumer spending, with sales of just under £5 billion. Children's wear sales increased 3.9 per cent to £2.4 billion.

M&S is 6 percentage points ahead of its nearest rival, Burton Group, which has 9.9 per cent of the clothing market. It is followed by C&A with 4.1 per cent, Storehouse (3.9 per cent) and Sear's (3.8 per cent).

Verdict says the outlook for the clothing sector in the next 12 months is depressed.

Software shares are suspended

By Martin Barrow

TELECOMPUTING, the Unlisted Securities Market software house, requested the suspension of dealings in its shares at 11p, saying it was negotiating a merger that would "very substantially" increase the size of its business.

The company refused to make any further comment but speculation centred on Ferrari Holdings, a computing services concern formerly known as Cifer. Ferrari already holds 29.8 per cent of Telecomputing and is known to harbour plans to expand through acquisition. An announcement may be made this week.

One year ago Ferrari acquired Pericom, a competitor. More recently, an attempt to merge with Touchstone Group was thwarted by the late intervention of Stratagem with a rival bid that has yet to be declared fully unconditional.

Both companies have enjoyed better times. Ferrari's shares have fallen to 7p and this month the company dropped plans for a rights issue to raise fresh capital. The company incurred an attributable loss of £683,000 for the first half of 1990. Telecomputing, under new management since November 1989, cut pre-tax losses from £332,000 to £44,000 in the six months to March 1990 but its shares have since fallen from 68p.

Administrators are called in

CHANCERY, the banking and financial services group whose shares were suspended at 36p on Friday, has called in administrators, blaming problems with its property loan book.

Colin Bird and Mark Homan of Price Waterhouse have been appointed as joint administrators. Directors believe the company has an excess of assets over liabilities. Chancery Bank will continue to recover loans in the usual way, and the subsidiaries, none of which is in administration, will trade normally. In November, Chancery revealed provisions of £3.5 million on its loan book.

British Steel to buy McKechnie division

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH Steel is to buy the Selco Hardy division of McKechnie for £11.7 million. The deal takes British Steel into making finished stainless steel products for the first time, and completes McKechnie's withdrawal from metal manufacturing in the United Kingdom.

British Steel said the deal would enable it to "get closer" to its customers. The purchase is in line with the chairman Sir Robert Scholey's strategy of developing vertical integration and expanding in areas where more value is added in the manufacturing process.

A British Steel spokesman said the deal would give his company an important entry to a market with opportunities for increased profitability. The steel group would also achieve cost savings through shared technical, research and development expertise. Selco Hardy's customers would also benefit, he said.

The deal is subject to regulatory clearances. Stuart Moberley, McKechnie's finance director, said no difficulties were expected.

The Selco Hardy proceeds bring to £52 million the amount raised by McKechnie through the sale of its metals businesses. Last month, McKechnie completed the sale of its brass extrusions business to Trelleborg of Sweden for £28 million. Since then, the group has also sold Worcester Park.

The company has a share of between 20 and 25 per cent of the British market for its products, and substantial exports. In the year to the end of last July, weakness of the domestic market caused pre-tax profits to halve to £971,000.

Selco Hardy is British Steel's largest customer for stainless steel made at Panton, near Pontypool, Gwent, and in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, buying 6,000 tonnes a year.

sons, the architectural ironmonger.

Mr Moberley said gearing was on course to fall below 10 per cent by July. However, he said McKechnie was seeking acquisitions to expand its core businesses in engineering plastics and specialised engineering in Europe and America.

The disposals have sharply reduced the proportion of McKechnie's profits earned in Britain. Mr Moberley said the group was seeking a geographical balance that would enable 40 per cent of profits to be generated in Britain and the rest, in equal measures, would come from activities in America, continental Europe, and the Pacific rim.

Selco Hardy, of Treorchy, Glamorgan, employs 186 people in the manufacture of small bore stainless steel tube, which is used in food processing, automotive and other industries.

The company has a share of between 20 and 25 per cent of the British market for its products, and substantial exports. In the year to the end of last July, weakness of the domestic market caused pre-tax profits to halve to £971,000.

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On stream with strategy: Sir Robert Scholey of BS

Haslam joins Wasserstein

By Our Industrial Correspondent

LORD Haslam, who retired from the chairmanship of British Coal Corporation in December, is joining Wasserstein Perella & Co International as non-executive chairman.

His appointment complements the choice of Sir Peter Levene, the chief of defence procurement at the defence ministry, as full-time deputy chairman of the British arm of the American leveraged buy-out specialist. Sir Peter joins the company later this summer.

The recruitment of two

senior industrialists underscores its commitment to its British operation. James Downing, the managing director, said that he expects cross-border acquisitions in Europe to be a growth area for the company's business.

Lord Haslam brings some formidable contacts to his new role at Wasserstein Perella. He is a director of the Bank of England, an advisory director of Unilever, and in April takes up an appointment as non-executive chairman of Bechtel Ltd, the British arm of the

American construction and engineering group.

He said that he has had close ties with Wasserstein Perella since he went to America as a director of Imperial Chemical Industries in 1979 to seek acquisitions.

Lord Haslam was subsequently chairman of British Steel Corporation and British Coal. He is credited with effective measures to improve profitability and productivity at both groups.

Wasserstein Perella is best known in Britain for advice

during aggressive takeover bids in America, and for its participation in the takeover by Iscosoles of the Gateway food stores.

The buy-out specialist is now the largest shareholder in Iscosoles, with a 40 per cent stake. Last year, Wasserstein Perella provided acquisition advice to BASF of Germany, Dentsu of Japan, and Barmat, the British oil group, among others.

Wasserstein Perella has formed close links with Nomura, the Japanese investment house.

TIP and bankers agree on debt

By Martin Waller

TIP Europe, the Anglo-Dutch trailer rental company, has reached agreement with its bankers over amendments to its lending arrangements after breaching certain of its borrowing covenants. But the group was forced to temper the good news with its second profits warning in three months.

The shares edged ahead 2p to 33p. David Callar, the finance director, said it had become apparent that in its first quarter, the three months to end-October, the group would fail to achieve the level of interest cover written into the agreements covering its multiple option financing facility. TIP has borrowings of about £160 million and gearing approaching 400 per cent.

The banks had agreed to reduce the number of times they required interest payments to be covered from 1.8 to closer to 1, although Mr Callar would not give further details.

The news was greeted with relief by the market, which had been concerned about how long the talks with the banks were taking.

TIP first revealed at the end of November that it was potentially in default, raising the risk that any of the 18 banks involved could pull the plug. In return for their forbearance, TIP is likely to be paying higher interest charges.

TIP, which gave a warning in November that current year pre-tax profits would be lower than last time, has now said that it will report in April first-half earnings "significantly below" the £7.56 million achieved last time.

Market estimates of about £11 million have been scaled back to between £8 million and £9 million for the full year, with £3.5 million to £4 million expected in the first half.

Mr Callar said the forecast profits shortfall came to light when it was realised that British trailer rental utilisation levels of about 65 per cent in the first quarter were well below the company's expectations of nearer 75 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cornwell Parker sells kitchens subsidiary

CORNWELL Parker, the fabrics and furniture group, is selling its loss-making County Kitchens subsidiary, which was acquired in February 1989, to its management for a nominal sum.

County Kitchens, of Camberley, which has net assets of £1.3 million, was acquired for an initial £641,000 and has lost more than £1 million since. County was largely to blame for last year's decline in profits at Cornwell, with the group's reported pre-tax profits down 5 per cent to £8.7 million in the year to end-July. The disposal is expected to result in an eventual reduction in Cornwell Parker's reserves of up to £2.5 million. Cornwell Parker's shareholders' funds were £40.6 million at end-July.

Siemens buys turbine firm

SIEMENS, the electronics group, has acquired Göttinger Maschinenbau, an eastern German turbine maker, for an undisclosed sum. Siemens, one of the firms most exposed to eastern Germany, bought it through KWL, a subsidiary. Siemens will invest DM450 million in the company, to be renamed Siemens Turbinenbau.

Howard drops payout

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Howard Holdings, the property development and plant hire company, fell by 87 per cent to £155,000 for the six months to end-October on turnover down 21 per cent to £3.9 million.

There is no interim dividend, compared with 0.6p last year. John Howard, chairman, said the board "considers it prudent to defer the decision on dividend policy until the full year results are known". Mr Howard said the board expected a "difficult" second half. He added that "we consider that with continued strong management control the company will be in an advantageous position to stage a recovery".

Sims buys Quantock

SIMS Food Group, the meat and poultry company, has bought Quantock Meats and W&W Meats for a maximum £2.1 million in shares, depending on profits. Quantock, based in Dorchester, Dorset, supplies controlled atmosphere packaged meat. W&W, based in Colnbrook, Middlesex, supplies meat to airlines and airline caterers.

Trust's net assets fall

THE net asset value per share at Second Alliance Trust, the Dundee international trust, declined by 10.5 per cent to £10.88 at end-January, compared with £12.16 a year ago. Interim pre-tax profits are £4.86 million (£4.6 million) and revenues climbed to £5.08 million (£4.78 million). Earnings per share rose to 17.82p (16.81p). The interim dividend rose to 11.5p (11p).

The company said that although the high rate of growth in dividend income to which investors have become accustomed in recent years is showing signs of slowing, earnings for the year to date have risen.

STOCK MARKET

Shares extend gains on hopes of further cut in base rates

THE prospect of another cut in bank base rates soon enabled share prices to extend recent strong gains.

The FT-SE 100 index again went above 2,300 with a rise of 21.4 points at 2,318.3. More than 300 million shares changed hands. Prices closed below their best levels although dealers expressed satisfaction with the market's overall performance under difficult conditions.

The bomb blasts at Paddington and Victoria railway stations meant many dealers and fund managers were late arriving. But business soon picked up after an uncertain start, helped by Friday's 50 point plus rise on Wall Street and another strong performance overnight in Tokyo. Hopes of another cut in interest rates rose after the latest retail sales figures showed a sharp fall in spending.

But with Wall Street closed for George Washington's birthday and dealers heading for home early, London lost its early impetus. The FT index of 30 shares rose 18.1 to 2,318.3. Government securities spent a quiet session, ending with gains of 1/4 to the longer end.

International companies drew strength from the stronger dollar. ICL, with figures due soon, climbed 19p to £10.19. Glaxo 6p to 964p, and BOC Group 15p to 363p. Rothmans B jumped 25p to 795p after nine-month results from Carreras led to a profits upgrading from Warburg Securities.

British Gas eased 2p to 237p as several brokers, including the Ofgas report into domestic tariffs.

County is sticking with its forecast of a rise in pre-tax profits for the current year to March 31 from £926 million to £1.2 billion, but says regulatory interference could dent the strong earnings growth expected. Fergus MacCloud of County urges investors to take profits short-term.

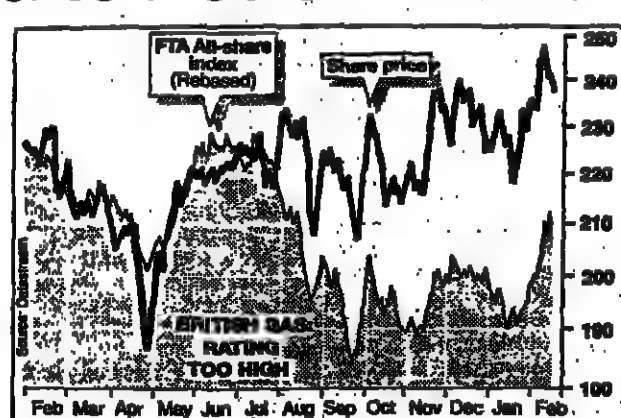
The food retailers have started to come under some selling pressure in the wake of Friday's inflation figures. These provided evidence that food price inflation was starting to fall and indicated that the retailers' margins were being eroded. J Sainsbury was 1p firmer at 334p, but Tesco, with the final call on its rights issue due on Friday, fell 3p to 238p. Asda on 128p, Budegens on 55p, Williams Low on 307p.

Unilever, the Anglo Dutch food and consumer products group, rose 4p to 733p. Salomon Brothers, the New York securities house, says the shares are bouncing back into favour and rates them a buy ahead of full year figures due next week. Salomon is forecasting an increase in pre-tax profits of 7 per cent to £1.8 billion and a similar percentage rise in the final dividend.

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Nikkei soars on peace hopes

THE NIKKEI 225 index closed sharply higher on the back of rallies on overseas markets on Friday and optimism that the end of the Gulf war is near. Turnover was the heaviest in more than 14 months, and brokers said the mood is upbeat.

Masayoshi Yano, the deputy general manager at Nikko Securities, said there was "good, broad-based demand, with a healthy outlook for further gains", after the Nikkei index rose 886.27

points, or 3.5 per cent, to 26,230.01. Volume of shares traded soared to 1.2 billion.

The market rose at the open, buoyed by Friday's rally on Wall Street, where hopes that the Gulf War may be resolved peacefully pushed blue chips up 2 per cent.

The Nikkei closed at its best since August 21 last year, when it ended at 26,297.84, and trading volume rose to its highest since December 1989. Brokers attributed the rise to participation by all forms of

investors. One fund manager said: "It's a typical pattern. Foreigners buy, then Japanese institutions come in, and finally individuals follow."

Foreigners were strong buyers yesterday, although some participants worried that foreign enthusiasm would wane because of the weaker yen.

The currency traded above ¥130 to the dollar.

However, the market had "shifted all its focus to the peace factor", according to Mr Yano.

(Reuters)

Hang Seng leaps 1.8%

HONG KONG

The Hang Seng index gained 60.76 points, or 1.78 per cent, to 3,473.42 on the strength of the rally in Tokyo. Late profit-taking, however, trimmed the advance before the close.

One broker expected the advance to continue. He said: "Although there was some profit taking, the Hang Seng

will rise further and will very likely breach 3,500 later this week or even tomorrow."

Singapore - Share prices closed at a six month high despite profit taking in late afternoon trading, brokers said. The Straits Times Industrial index closed 39.43 points ahead at 1,378.13.

(Reuters)

Dax rise surprises dealers

FRANKFURT

SHARES continued to rally in what many dealers saw as an astonishing show of optimism linked to hopes of a quick end to the Gulf war.

The Dax index, which had started the day nervously and barely above Friday's closing levels, jumped 41.38 points, or 2.7 per cent, to 1,572.57.

Dealers expressed surprise at the steep rise. The car sector, which has recently dragged behind the market, put in one of the strongest performances.

Sydney - The All Ordinaries index ended 22.7 points ahead at 1,399.3, its highest close since October 2, 1986, when it reached 1,406.1.

New York - Wall Street was closed for the President's Day holiday.

(Reuters)

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KB reels from brewery blow

KB REELS from the blow of the brewery industry's decision to cut prices. The company, which has been a major player in the market, is now facing a significant challenge. The decision by the brewery industry to cut prices has led to a sharp decline in KB's sales. The company is now looking for ways to survive in a highly competitive market. The decision by the brewery industry to cut prices has led to a sharp decline in KB's sales. The company is now looking for ways to survive in a highly competitive market.

Finance rules OK?

FINANCE rules are OK, say some experts. The new regulations are seen as a positive step towards improving the financial system. However, others are concerned that the rules may be too strict and could hinder growth. The new regulations are seen as a positive step towards improving the financial system. However, others are concerned that the rules may be too strict and could hinder growth.

One more day of rising share prices on yesterday's scale and the London Stock Exchange will have retraced all of the ground lost since the Iraqi army moved into Kuwait last summer. A further 21 point gain would take the FT-SE 100 index back to the August 1 level of 2,339.

On Wall Street, closed yesterday for its President's Day holiday, the Gulf effect has been more short lived. At Friday's close of 2,934 the Dow Jones Industrial Average was comfortably ahead of the 2,900 mark where it traded at the start of August.

The recent performance of shares on both sides of the Atlantic has been extremely strong. The Footsie index has surged almost 17 per cent since its post-invasion low of last autumn while the Dow is close on a quarter higher. Some of this strength is easily accounted for, but the sight of shares serenely rising against the background of deep industrial gloom in both America and Britain is harder to explain.

What shook the confidence of

investors last August was the prospect of serious damage to the world economy. The Iranian revolution a decade earlier sent oil prices to damaging levels and stoked up inflationary fires around the world. The tough monetary medicine needed to cure these ills brought growth to a halt and hurt profits badly.

Possible large scale destruction of oil production capacity in Iraq, Kuwait or, more menacingly, Saudi Arabia was one of the worst uncertainties triggered in August. The doomsday scenario has receded, providing the underpinning for some recovery in shares. But does it justify the powerful rises to August levels when markets were not fully discounting the corporate disasters to become apparent later in the year?

Wall Street's boomlet looks the most suspect, in fact almost a knee-jerk reaction to lower interest rates and easing of policy by the Federal Reserve. The good

Shares shrug off the Gulf effect

news is that the bull run in New York has not been due to a resurgence of takeover based on highly leveraged financial engineering. It is a traditional rally anticipating a shallow recession and a fast pick-up in corporate profits. But perhaps it has been overdone. The American stock market now trades on a prospective earnings multiple of around 16 times - rich enough for the time being unless interest rates are going to fall substantially further.

In London, the driving force is liquidity. Professional investors feel that the economy is close to bottoming out even though lagging indicators like unemployment and reported profits will not show this for some time to come. They are becoming less comfortable with large cash holdings at a time of falling

interest rates and rising share prices, and on historic terms shares are not expensive. If indeed London investors are looking through the recession to better times, a new bull market may have already started at the end of September, when the Footsie dipped to 1,990.

Banks rethink

When the chairman of Britain's largest bank warns the public not to expect too much of a dividend increase, it is a sign that the traditional role of bank shares as rock solid income stocks is due for a rethink.

Sir John Quinlan's suggestion that Barclays would restrain its payout was indiscreet, since it came ten days before the bank

publishes preliminary figures. But it is a welcome indication of the realism in bank boardrooms these days. Heavy bad debts have savaged profits and weakened reserves. There is rebuilding to be done, perhaps at the expense of tradition.

While profits have knocked by the secondary banking crisis, Third World debt, and intermittent recessions, for the past 20 years the banks have always been willing to offer dividend increases above inflation. But will investors accept that paying dividends from precious capital is ruinous in the long-term, and that only the state of a bank's earnings should ultimately determine its generosity? The test will come when a bank reduces its payout, and this may happen soon.

Midland Bank is due to spend the next fortnight agonising whether it should become the first major British bank in history to cut its dividend. The

arguments for and against will be aired in the bank's seven-man executive committee. Those in favour of maintaining the 10.7p final dividend will insist that the bank has financial strength to pay it. They will say that a cut could have a serious effect on confidence in the bank, both in the stockmarket and with depositors. Those calling for a reduction will say that the shares trade on a historic yield of almost 14 per cent, thereby discounting a reduction of 4p or 6p. They will argue the reduction is necessary to preserve capital and reduce the tax charge.

The City believes the decision could go either way. If it is maintained, the honour of the first cut is likely to go instead to Standard Chartered. Most analysts forecast that Standard will reduce its final dividend by 10p to 12.5p. This will alleviate a heavy tax problem, caused by a lack of domestic earnings, and protect the bank's limited reserves. All the banks will try to dress up their dividend restraint as sound financial management. Whether this will wash with their investors remains to be seen.

THE chairman of Quoted UK plc, the aggregate model of quoted British companies managed by the research department of Hoare Govett, is a perennially cheerful fellow, who wants his shares to go up.

In the guise of Simon Clegg, Hoare's head of research, he presented yesterday the most desolate report in a decade, predicting that business conditions will worsen in the coming months.

Yet he forecasts in the annual statement that pre-tax profits, earnings per share and dividends will all rise this year, albeit at a pedestrian level by modern experience. Pre-tax profits are expected to rise by 7 per cent. On that basis, earnings per share would increase by 5 per cent.

At this stage, a further 7 per cent rise in dividends is expected, continuing the long years of real dividend growth, but that could be revised, since decisions will reflect the prevailing business mood at the time.

Such guarded optimism is based on the relentless momentum of growth in sectors such as supermarkets, breweries, telephone networks, health and electricity distribution, coupled with some accounting recovery from 1990 provisioning by banks and construction groups. The rest is gloom.

The coming peak reporting season for companies is not likely to make cheerful reading, judging from fast-falling City forecasts.

Many companies, especially in manufacturing, may write off all they can to clear the decks and pare costs for an uncertain future.

A year ago, the chairman of Quoted UK predicted earnings growth of 9 per cent in 1990. Even the interim report in the summer looked for an autumn recovery producing a 6 per cent rise in earnings per share for 1990 as a whole.

This reflects the speed with which recession took hold in

Recession reaches all the parts of Quoted UK

SHARP VARIATION BETWEEN SECTORS



the second quarter, first evidenced in interim warnings from ICI, then bit deeper than expected as the year progressed, exacerbated by a 31 per cent rise in interest charges on its 8 per cent increase in debt. As Hoare's Richard Jeffrey points out, the Treasury seems to have been the last to know. Quoted UK now sees its 1990 pre-tax profits down by 2 per cent, the first drop in a decade. Earnings per share are

down 6 per cent, the second fall in a row, but dividends, even allowing for some notable disappearances from the list, are still up 6 per cent at the expense of dividend cover.

The minor recovery predicted this year - and already anticipated in the latest rise in share prices - depends on more enthusiastic interest rate cutting by the Chancellor. The first two quarters will be awful. A second half rebound

assumes base rates will be cut a further 1½ points to 12 per cent by the end of next month and to 11 per cent by the end of June - in-line with a possible early election.

The other good news for profits is that earnings settlements should come down sharply in the wake of halved retail price inflation and sharply rising unemployment. Even assuming the business mood is capable of turning quickly, however, permanent damage will have been done.

Capital investment, which has helped boost productivity nearer continental levels, will fall by 10 per cent, as in the Howe recession ten years ago. Manufacturing industry will again fare much worse than the service sectors.

Quoted UK, typically, blames its problems on government economic management.

The board has already acquired a jaundiced view of the benefits anticipated from putting sterling into the European exchange-rate mechanism at the chosen rate.

Companies may still be able to compete. Under the Major/Lamont partnership, however, domestic policy remains distorted by the priority of stable exchange rates, just as shadowing the mark blinded Nigel Lawson to the need for restraint at home.

So long as Britain's economic cycle remains ahead of the Continent, priority for exchange rates will lead to wider swings in the British economy, says Mr Jeffrey.

He sees no reason for currency convergence to lead to convergence of economic cycles.

If real companies share the sentiments of the chairman of Quoted UK, fund managers may start questioning the wisdom of their recent bout of share-buying, which has already driven average dividend yields below 5 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

Ashtead takes a chance

STRANDED commuters were not the only ones to suffer from the icy weather of recent weeks. Having much of their plant under a foot of snow did little for hires such as Ashtead Group, already struggling in the recession-hit construction market.

Ashtead, a one-time high-flying Unlisted Securities Market company of the year now sitting at the grown-up table with a full listing, reported a 31 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £2.51 million in the six months to end-October.

Turnover was up 15 per cent to £17.3 million, but the need to get the plant off the forecourt and on to the building site clipped margins from 28 to 20 per cent.

Ashtead has chosen to ride out the recession by expanding its market share at whatever prices it can get, rather than by closing any of its 49 branches, all of which are trading profitably. It is a high-risk policy, especially given the group's high borrowings.

Previously, second half profits exceeded those in the first half as the group saw quick benefits from acquisitions. But this pattern is set to change, the company said, exacerbated by the hard winter.

It is hard to see Ashtead making much more than £4.5 million pre-tax in the current economic climate, which leaves the shares trading on about 5.5 times future earnings. The decision to raise the interim dividend, therefore, looks hard to justify except as a confidence-boosting exercise.

Gearing is above 80 per cent and will not decline swiftly. Interest payments are likely to total £2 million in the current year, while a similar sum must be found in the next financial year to fund earlier acquisitions. The shares jumped 7p

TEMPUS

to 90p after their abrupt plummet from approaching 300p a year ago, but they look to have nowhere to go until present uncertainties are resolved.

Barrett

UNTIL yesterday, shares in Henry Barrett, the steel and industrial products company, had risen 20 per cent in February.

But following the warning of lower profits in the current year, they have fallen 11p to 81p. The wider stock market might like to dwell on the fall before it pursues the idea of buying sentiment, rather than earnings, much further.

By its own admission, Henry Barrett is a second-line company and, as such, suffers from some second-rate research. Until yesterday, the handful of analysts that follow the Bradford company had forecasts for the current year of between £6 million and £11 million, compared with the £12.5 million it made in the year to last August.

Following the profits warning, the consensus gathered around the bottom of the range, with Panmure Gordon, the company's broker, slashing its forecast from £11 million to between £5 million and £7 million. The warning had the desired effect of concentrating minds on Barrett's problems.

These clearly cannot be small, given that the warning comes six months before the year-end. The market is now prepared for poor interim figures, with the possibility of a reduced or uncovered interim dividend.

The company is confident of a better second half. It has trimmed staff by 200 in the past six months, its Westbury

scientific contracts, and currency movements.

The sweetener is a 25 per cent increase in the interim payment from 4p to 5p a share - although 4p's total was augmented by a 1p special dividend - even though conditions will clearly remain tough in the second half, and year-end profits could be down on last year's £8.75 million pre-tax.

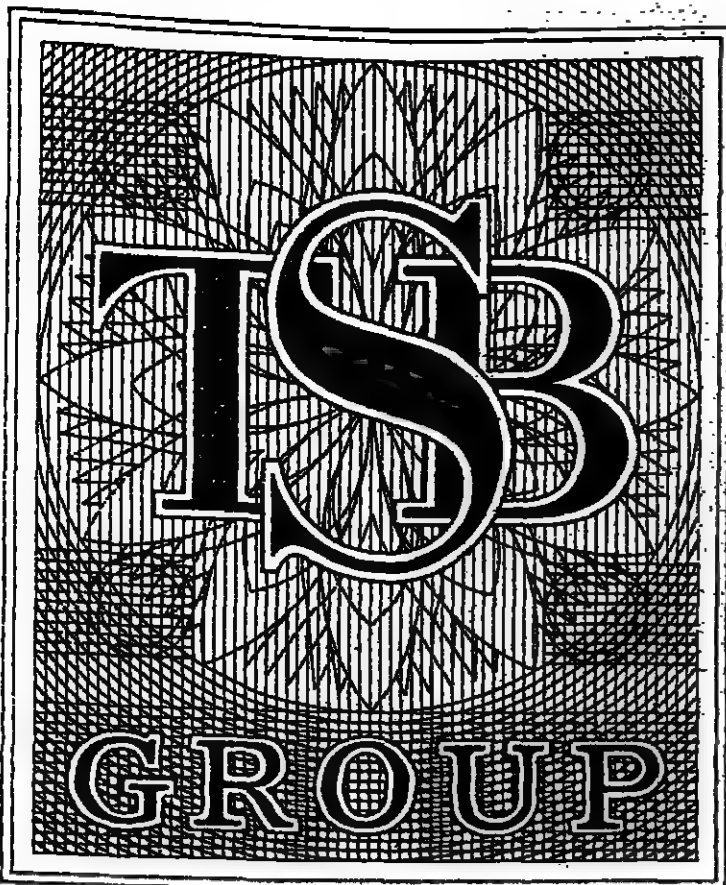
The cash - equivalent to 58p a share - provides a defensive quality, but also gives the financial ammunition to expand further into the scientific and technical field, a nod to the Gulf war and a brighter American economy would help immeasurably.

As a significant supplier of shoes to the Marks and Spencer chain and to other major multinationals, FII should also benefit once the British economy begins to pick up again.

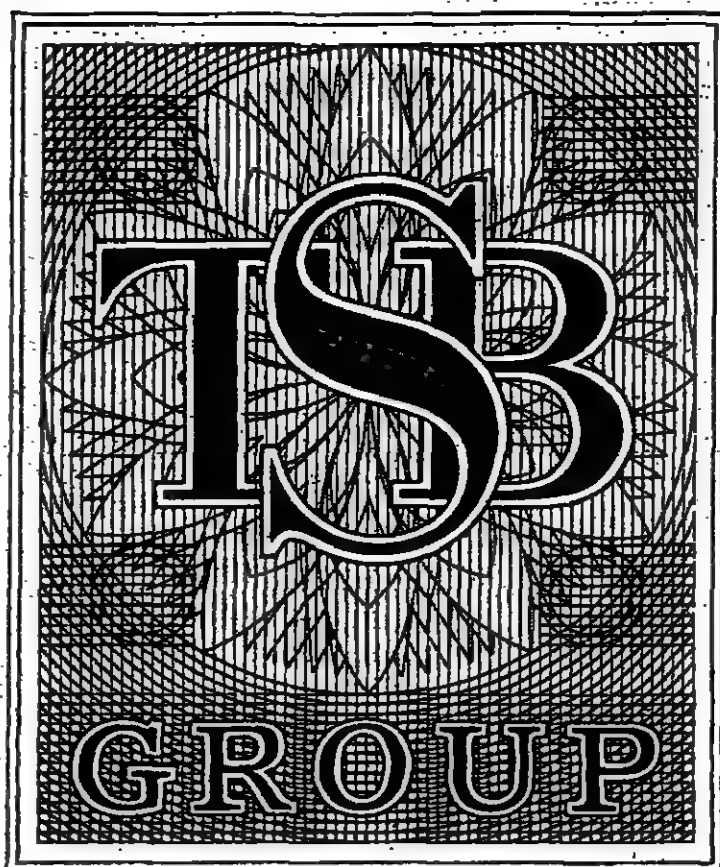
Year-end profits could slip to around £8.4 million, to put the shares at 373p on a prospective rating of 9.9. FII is well priced.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

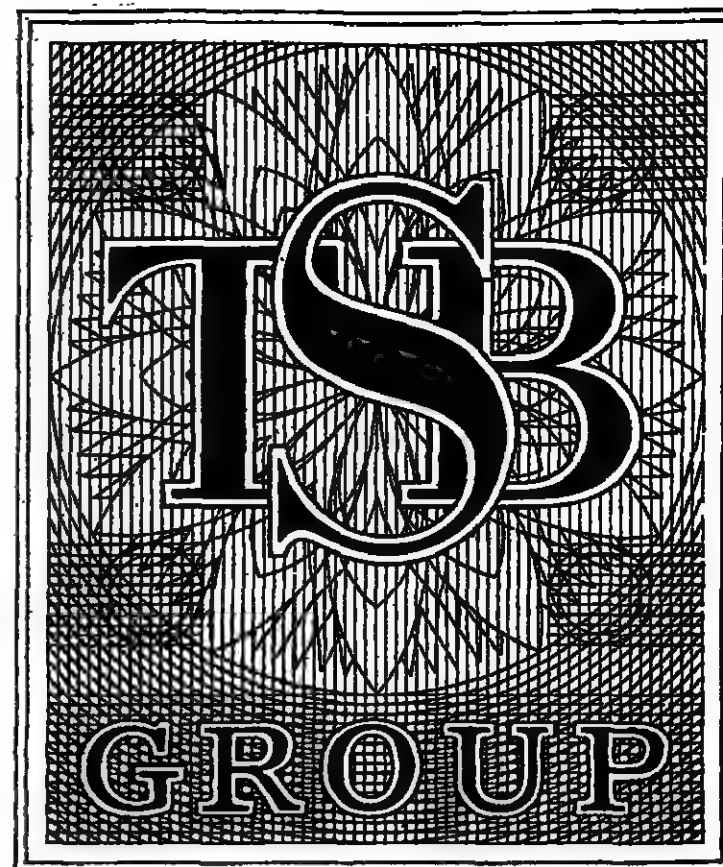
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FT-100	2400	1.10	1.10	FT-100	2400	1.10	1.10
FT-100	2450	1.10	1.10	FT-100	2450	1.10	1.10
FT-100	2500	1.10	1.10	FT-100	2500	1.10	1.10
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FT-100	4200	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4200	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4250	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4250	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4300	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4300	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4350	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4350	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4400	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4400	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4450	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4450	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4500	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4500	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4550	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4550	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4600	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4600	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4650	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4650	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4700	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4700	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4750	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4750	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4800	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4800	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4850	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4850	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4900	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4900	1.10	1.10
FT-100	4950	1.10	1.10	FT-100	4950	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5000	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5000	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5050	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5050	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5100	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5100	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5150	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5150	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5200	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5200	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5250	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5250	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5300	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5300	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5350	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5350	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5400	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5400	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5450	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5450	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5500	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5500	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5550	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5550	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5600	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5600	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5650	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5650	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5700	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5700	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5750	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5750	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5800	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5800	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5850	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5850	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5900	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5900	1.10	1.10
FT-100	5950	1.10	1.10	FT-100	5950	1.10	1.10
FT-100	6000	1.10	1.10	FT-100	6000	1.10	1.10
FT-100	6050	1.10	1.10	FT-100	6050	1.10	1.10
FT-100	6100	1.10	1.10	FT-100	6100	1.10	1.10
FT-100	6150	1.10	1.10	FT-100	6150	1.10	1.10
FT-100	6200	1.10	1.10	FT-100	6200	1.10	



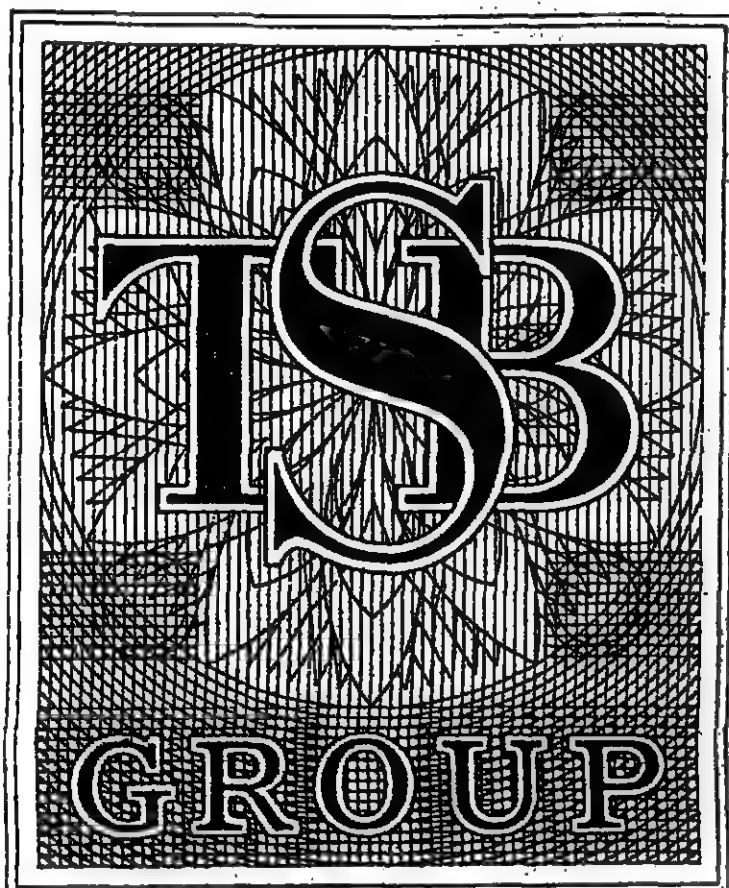
TSB Group is one of Britain's major financial organisations.



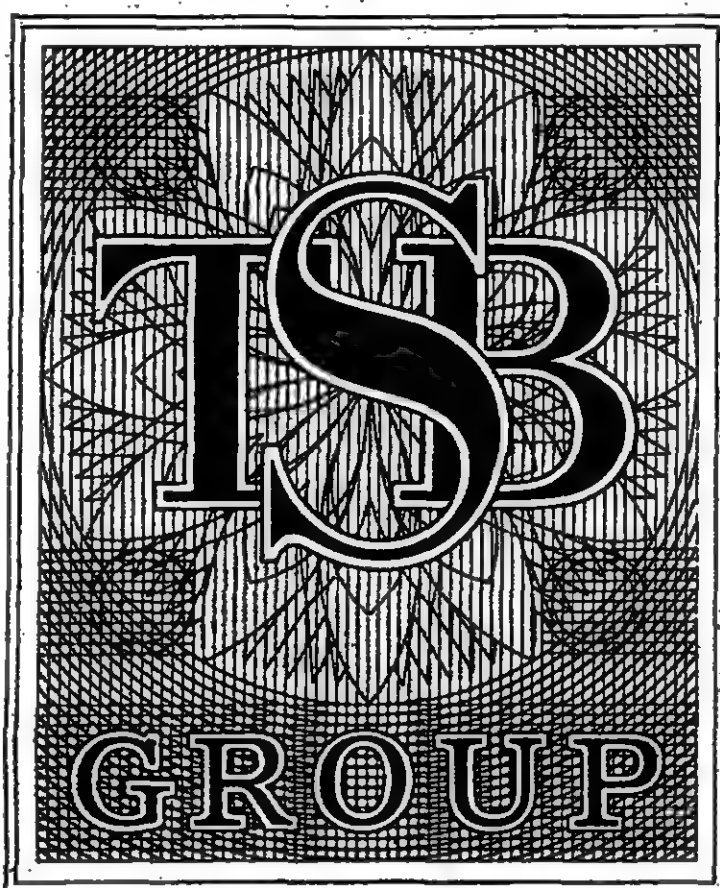
Our core businesses are banking and insurance.



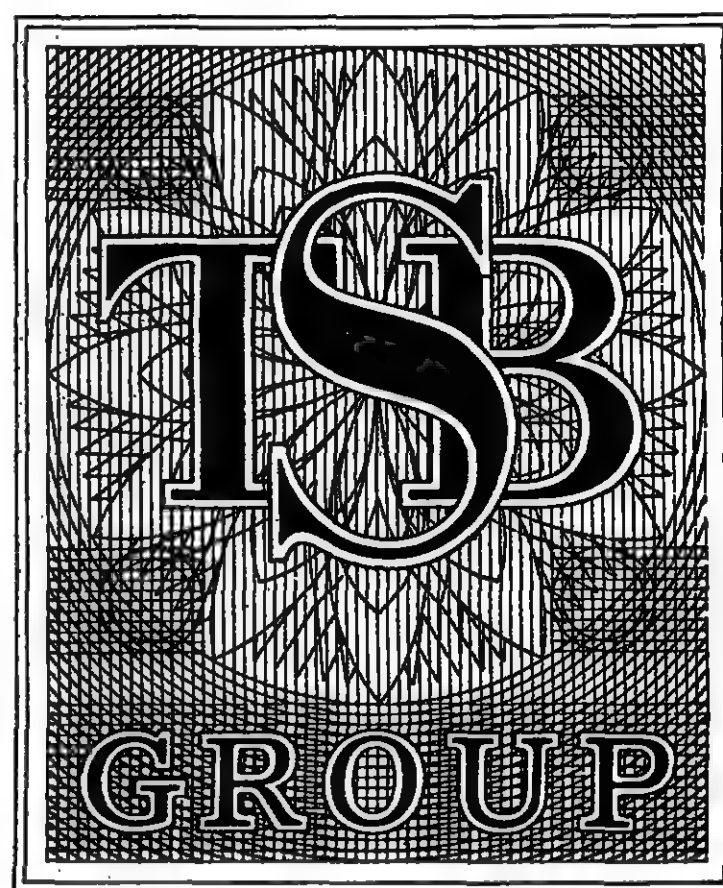
Last year we undertook a major reorganisation of our retail banking business.



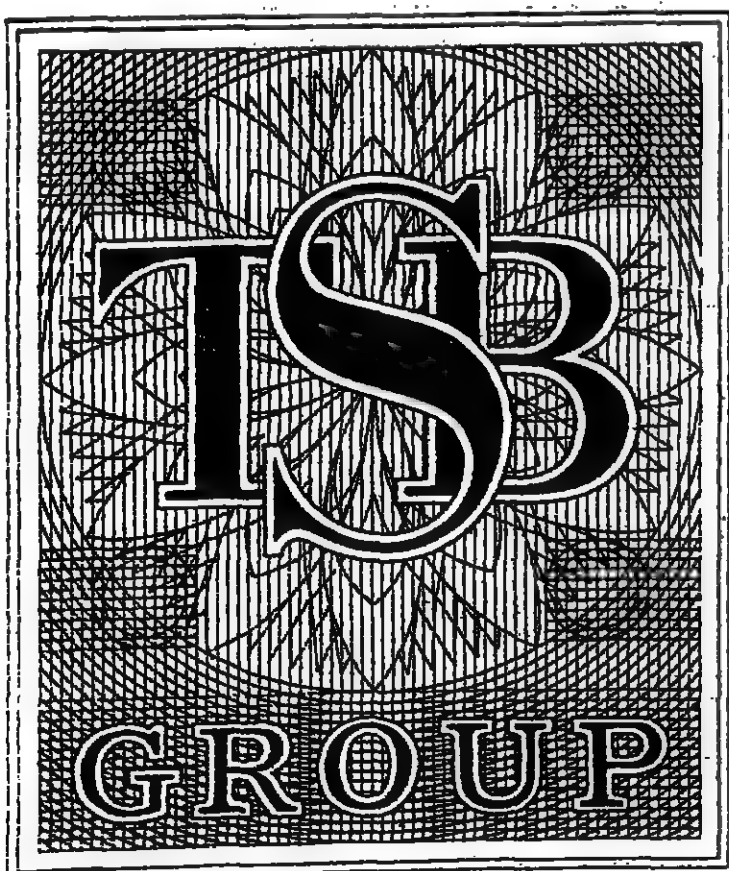
As a result, retail banking profits were up 40% last year. Income rose by 18% but costs were only up 5%.



Profits from insurance and investment services also rose, by 33%.



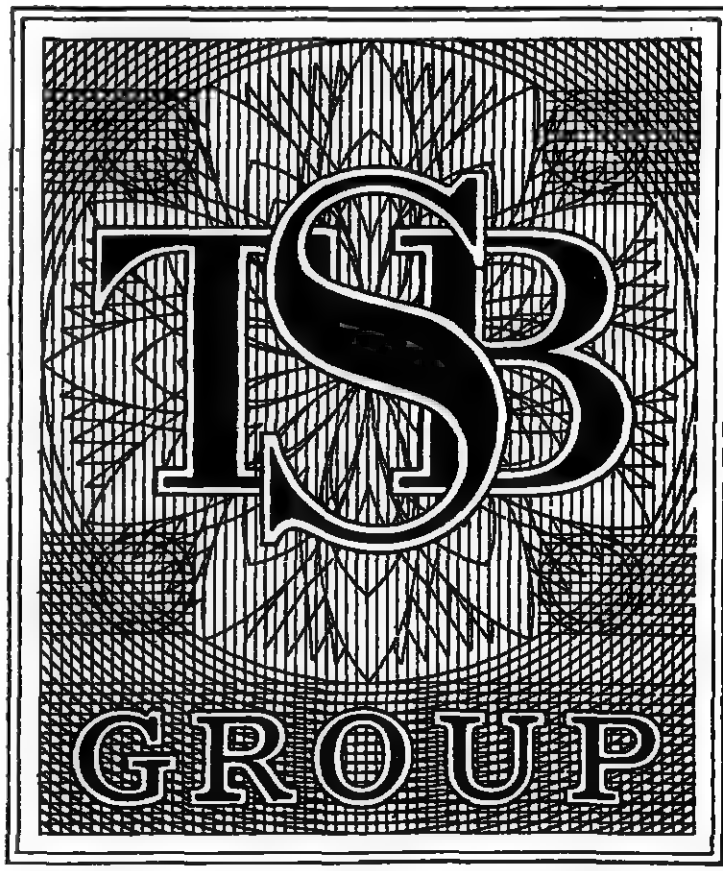
Like other banks, we were hit by provisions against bad and doubtful debts as a result of the recession, and this held back total profits.



TSB Group continues to invest in the future to build long-term value for our shareholders.



A 10.3% increase in dividend for the year reflects the Group's financial strength.



For more information about the TSB Group, write to Peter Rowland, Secretary, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

BANKING AND BEYOND.

ASSETS: £27 billion. SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES: £1.8 billion. CURRENT AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS: £23 billion. ADVANCES: £17 billion. FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE: £22 billion.
 RETAIL BANKING: TSB Bank; UHY. TSB Property Services. CORPORATE AND MERCHANT BANKING: Hill Samuel Bank. INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT SERVICES: TSB Trust Company; Hill Samuel Investment Services Group; Bell Lawrie White; Hill House Hammond; Hill Samuel Investment Management Group. COMMERCIAL: Noble Lowndes; Swan National; Wescol International Marine Services.

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Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.2 (day's range 94.2-94.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Next Rates For 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.9950-1.9985	1.9980-1.9980	1.06-1.055	2.89-2.97
Month	2.2578-2.2587	2.2578-2.2580	1.00-1.07	1.01-0.99
London	0.9720-0.9810	0.9720-0.9810	0.9720-0.9810	0.9720-0.9810
Brussels	56.70-60.00	56.70-59.50	56-16p	54-51p
Copragh	11.1651-11.2027	11.1651-11.1914	8p-24p	7p-7p
Frankfurt	1.0005-1.0050	1.0005-1.0050	8p-24p	8p-24p
London	2.5081-2.5130	2.5081-2.5118	1p-1p	8p-24p
Frankfurt	254.81-259.30	254.81-255.45	8-20p	8p-24p
Paris	118.17-118.87	118.17-118.87	8p-24p	8p-24p
Milan	2180.97-2187.50	2182.46-2187.50	3-1p	4-2p
Osaka	11.3550-11.3976	11.3550-11.3536	8p-24p	8p-24p
Stockholm	0.9710-0.9715	0.9710-0.9715	8p-24p	8p-24p
Stockholm	10.8544-10.8971	10.8544-10.8918	1-1p	1p-1p
Stockholm	256.59-259.91	256.59-259.91	8p-24p	8p-24p
Stockholm	20.4414-20.4941	20.4428-20.4912	7-1p	10p-10p
Zurich	2.4020-2.4070	2.4021-2.4054	1p-1p	3p-24p

Source: Reuters. Premiums in % Discount in %

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 13% Finance 14 1/2
 Official Market Rates: Overnight High: 14% Low: 13% Week End: 16%
 Treasury Bills (Maturity): 2 months 11 1/2% 3 months 11% 6 months 11% 12 months 11%

	1 month	2 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Prime Bank Bill (%)	12p-13p	12p-25p	12p-13p	11p-11p	12p
Treasury Bills (Mts):	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p
Interbank:	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-11p

Local Authority Deposit:	13p-13p	n/a	12p-12p	12p-12p	12p-12p
Banking Bills:	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-12p	11p-11p
Banking Bills (Mts):	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-12p	12p-12p
Banking Bills (Mts):	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-13p	12p-12p	12p-12p

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months	Call
Dollar:	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p
Swiss Franc:	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p
French Franc:	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p
Swiss Franc:	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p
Yen:	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p	8p-9p

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bullat & Co)

Bar Gold: 360.00-364.50	Close: 358.70-364.20	High: 358.70-364.20
Low: 358.50-364.00	Range: 358.50-364.00	(18.00-18.00)
Gold: 358.50-364.00	Range: 358.50-364.00	(18.00-18.00)
Gold: 358.50-364.00	Range: 358.50-364.00	(18.00-18.00)
Gold: 358.50-364.00	Range: 358.50-364.00	(18.00-18.00)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral:	1.8920-1.8945	Island	1.2785-1.2795
Australia dollar:	2.4948-2.4980	Malaysia	1.7148-1.7158
Bahrain dinar:	n/a	Singapore	2.8910-2.8920
Brazil cruzeiro:	0.9720-0.9810	Thailand baht:	1.2017-1.2027
Cypriot pound:	0.8325-0.8425	Sweden	1.1620-1.1630
Denmark krone:	7.925-7.925	Switzerland franc:	5.5375-5.5475
India rupee:	15.15-15.15	Taiwan dollar:	5.7000-5.7000
Indonesian rupiah:	16.20-16.20	Denmark	5.5325-5.5325
Japanese yen:	37.16-37.16	West Germany	1.4380-1.4387
Korean won:	8.00-8.00	Italy	1.9375-1.9375
Malaysian ringgit:	0.5910-0.5925	Netherlands	1.0930-1.0930
New Zealand dollar:	0.5251-0.5251	France	5.5425-5.5475
Saudi Arabia riyal:	0.2925-0.2925	Spain peseta:	20.45-20.45
Singapore dollar:	1.7148-1.7158	Hong Kong	1.112-1.112
S.Africa rand (Rn):	0.2225-0.2225	Japan yen (Yn):	7.7000-7.7000
S.Africa rand (Rn):	0.2225-0.2225	Portugal escudo:	130.15-130.25
S.Africa			

[illegible]

LONDON FUEL				LONDON OIL REPORTS (RACIAL) - London & Baltic			
COCA				A combination of American, Indian, Greek, and and A&P's market (1983-1984)			
COFFEE				CRUDE OIL (Brent) (Barrel)			
Nov 81	511.619	Nov 81	525.425	Brent Physical	17.80	-0.80	
Nov 81	558.567	Nov 81	540.528	Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.20	-0.70	
Nov 81	567.567	Nov 81	558.567	Brent 30 day (Mar)	17.20	-0.70	
Nov 81	710.707	Nov 81	567.567	Brent 45 day (Mar)	17.20	-0.70	
Nov 81	744.742	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Mar)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	758.758	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (May)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jun)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jul)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Aug)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Sep)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Oct)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Nov)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Dec)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jan)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Feb)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Mar)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (May)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jun)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jul)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Aug)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Sep)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Oct)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Nov)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Dec)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jan)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Feb)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Mar)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (May)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jun)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jul)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Aug)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Sep)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Oct)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Nov)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Dec)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jan)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Feb)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Mar)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (May)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jun)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Jul)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Aug)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Sep)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Oct)	unq	unq	
Nov 81	778.778	Nov 81	583.581	WTI Intermediate (Nov)	unq	unq	

هكذا عن الأصول

The boom years of graduate recruitment may seem distant to 1991's final-year students, but they have left a useful legacy with the proliferation of new careers magazines designed to help in job decisions.

Careers information is now presented more attractively in a "lifestyle" format designed for student appeal, and careers literature is moving away from bland, rose-tinted "adventorial". Apparently popular with their target audience, this new wave of careers titles has sometimes met a mixed response from employers and college careers services.

Half-a-dozen titles operate in the field — the *Graduate Post*, *Rasp*, *Student Initiative*, *SIS* (Student Industrial Societies), *Graduate Careers and Graduate Scientist and Engineer* (Dominion Press), and *Graduate Computerworld* (IDG Communications). A new national student newspaper, the *Weekly Revue* ("produced entirely by students"), is running careers features.

Students can obtain these magazines free at their careers offices, but in a highly competitive field each publication is looking to establish a recognisable market identity and thereby to maximise recruitment advertising revenue.

The *Graduate Post* is not strictly "new wave", since it has been appearing on campus for eight years. Produced by Newpoint, part of Reed Business Publishing, it is the only specialist newspaper in graduate careers, coming out every two weeks in tabloid format. It has a circulation of 47,000, mostly distributed free at college careers offices, although one third of copies are paid for on subscription. Last October it was relaunched with a new look designed to enhance the news element.

Heather Perry, the young graduate editor (modern languages at

All the career paths fit to print

As graduate vacancies decrease, there is help to be found with the marked proliferation of careers magazines, Derek Morgan writes

Cambridge), says: "We aim to provide objective careers information for students to weigh up for themselves rather than trying to give people advice. We are the only newspaper in this field, and this is what we have played on in our relaunch."

"Now we are much more newsy and current and our news is broader, reflecting general campus stories as well as straight careers. We have appointed a full-time news editor, and we do not just rely on press releases — we go out and hunt information."

Features have also been tightened up and they are now more issues-based, dealing with topics such as racial equality in recruitment. Interviews have a higher profile, and recent subjects include Linda Lancaster-Gayle, the publishing director of *TV Times*, and Steve Coppel and Will Carling offering useful advice on leadership in sport and in management.

In recent years a growing number of graduates have changed their employer, and often their career, within the first two years of employment — though the trend may change if recession bites deep. The *Graduate Post* has a job



Ken Payne

changers section, although Ms Perry feels that racial equality in recruitment is moving on too quickly. "The relative job boom of the Eighties perhaps discouraged graduates from properly thinking through their career decisions. You need to consider loyalty to the company which has trained you."

A feature of all the new publications is the young graduate profile. Indeed, *Rasp* ("about life after graduation") was launched 12 months ago with the aim of looking at careers more from the student viewpoint. The title comes from campus slang for "dis-

position", although the magazine also claims it is an acronym for Real Answers to Student Problems. Emma Mahony, *Rasp* editor, has a degree in Russian from Exeter university, and set up the magazine under the enterprise allowance scheme with a business partner, Guy Ogilvy, who looks after sales. She believes two factors give *Rasp* an identity. "All our articles are written by young graduates. Also, as well as being available at college careers offices, our magazine is actually distributed on campus via our network of student magazine editors." It is

also printed on "environmentally friendly paper", she says. If careers information comes from inside companies, written by young graduates in the workplace, how can it be objective? Ms Mahony acknowledges that "people tend to have a positive approach to their career, otherwise they would not be in the job", but she adds, "we do not ask them to print their company's name, and when we commission we ask for at least a paragraph on the downside of the job."

Ms Perry agrees: "We are running a lot more profiles. It has been

proven that students enjoy finding out what people actually do, and hearing what graduates say about the positive and negative aspects of the job. Naturally, companies select their strongest graduates to be profiled, but our staff at Newpoint is young and we can use our own contacts to approach individuals."

Ms Mahony thinks much careers literature used to be "overly positive, not very young and rather dreary". *Rasp* carries music, film and theatre reviews. "Students may pick up the magazine to read them, and then browse

through the careers material." *Rasp* also covers leisure pursuits such as hang-gliding and car rallies.

As competition has heated up, publications have become more hard-hitting. *Student Initiative* (from Stanley Armstrong Publishing, backed by the employer-led Management Charter Initiative) was launched in the autumn term of 1989 aiming "to separate the hype from the reality". Its opening editorial called for change, "in the whole impersonal, graduate packaging machine". In a regular feature called "The Acid Test", five volunteer students have taken part in an experiment to consumer-test the graduate recruitment system.

Student Initiative's editor, Neil Bartlem, says: "Every magazine needs to find a middle line between students and employers."

He attributes company problems in retaining new graduates partly to over-hype. "Free editorial in exchange for recruitment company advertising only leads to low reader credibility. The other extreme is to look at things only from the student viewpoint. *Student Initiative* is trying to create a bridge between students and employers."

Mr Bartlem sees the emphasis on management as an important element in the magazine's market niche.

Individuals can take out annual subscriptions to the *Graduate Post* (fortnightly) for £16.50, and to *Rasp* (six issues a year) for £6.50. *Freeport*, *Graduate Post*, *Subscriptions*, *Newpoint Publishing*, *Newpoint House*, St James Lane, London N10 3BR; *Rasp* Subscriptions, 11 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ; *Student Initiative* from Stanley Armstrong Publications, Greenwells, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9NG; *Graduate Computerworld* from IDG Communications Ltd, 9 Kelsey Park Road, Beckenham.

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Verdicts to be seen and heard

On Friday, the second reading debate of my private member's bill will take place in the House of Commons. The bill would remove two areas of statutory restrictions that are no longer justified and prevent open justice. They are section 41 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1925, which prohibits photography in courts, and sections 8 and 9 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, which forbids the interviewing of jurors.

The bill would allow controlled pilot projects to take place under the aegis of the Lord Chancellor's department or the Home Office.

What is the justification for allowing television cameras in courts? It is a principle of our law that justice should not only be done, but also be seen to be done. Today, this means allowing the public and journalists into a court when it is not sitting in chambers or in camera.

However, most of the population does not or cannot go to court. Even those who do go are not guaranteed entry because of limited court space, and therefore most people's understanding and knowledge of what happens in court is determined solely by newspaper reports and television journalists' accounts of what they observed. The closest the

Justice must be seen to be done on TV, according to Mike Woodcock. He argues that his bill, which proposes also that jury members should be quizzed on verdicts, will develop democracy

public gets to seeing what actually occurred in the courtroom is by artists' sketches, which are done from memory as they are not permitted to be drawn in court.

This limited interpretation of open justice may have been satisfactory in 1925, but it is surely not sufficient in 1991. Television is now our principal source of information. Research shows that 70 per cent of adults in the United Kingdom learn most of what they know about current events from television. Television, therefore, would greatly assist in informing and educating the public and thereby enhance people's confidence in our legal system.

Some people are deeply suspicious of the effects of allowing cameras into courts. Some believe that television is concerned only with entertainment and has a tendency to trivialise. However, entertainment is just one of its functions and it also can, and does, fulfil separately an important educational and informative role.

Others argue that television cameras can be intrusive and disruptive. However, I have

my own experience from which to draw in this regard. Those that are used in the Houses of Parliament are so unobtrusive as to be no longer noticed and I feel sure that a similar situation would quickly develop in the courts.

Perhaps the most important of all the arguments against the presence of cameras is that they would deter potential witnesses from attending court or in some way affect their testimony.

The recent Bar Council report on televising the courts examined this argument by looking at the evidence from



Open Mike Woodcock

those countries that do allow cameras in court, particularly the United States.

The Supreme Court of Florida, for example, authorised, in the late Seventies, a one-year experiment of televising all its state courts. During the year, more than 2,750 people took part in the televised trials, either as judge, attorney, juror, witness or court official. Everyone was asked to provide a report of their experience and complete a questionnaire.

The conclusions were that the presence of a camera did not adversely affect the qual-

ity of justice or distort the legal process. This result has been found in every American state that has carried out similar research. Nevertheless, some trials would not be suitable to be included in the pilot projects, such as those of rape and any involving children. There would have to be restrictions on what could be filmed. Using the rules of coverage of the New York courts as a guide, I believe that the principal restrictions could be:

- no pictures of the jury;
- no pictures of any witness whose identity is protected by law;
- no pictures of anyone if such coverage is liable to endanger the safety of that person;
- no coverage of any proceedings that are in chambers or in camera or in respect of which an order under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, has been made;
- no pictures of documents or advocates' benches;
- no sound transmission of any conferences in court between lawyers and their clients.

I stress that my bill does not

LEGAL BRIEF

'Televising court proceedings would greatly assist in informing and educating the public and thereby enhance people's confidence in the legal system'

propose that television should be a permanent feature of our courts. Nor does it specify the type of court that would be suitable for any trial or for the rules that should be applied. The bill merely facilitates a testing of the arguments through well-managed and constructed experiments.

The second and equally important part of my bill would allow carefully controlled research to be carried out into how jurors reach their decisions. This is, I believe, necessary not only to allow us to gain a better understanding of how the jury system, a cornerstone of our legal process, works, but also to find out if any improvements to it should be made.

Surely, it is right, especially in the era of increasingly complex cases, to know, for example, what most informed jurors as they came to their verdicts and whether all the evidence was properly understood and weighed.

We live in a free, democratic country. However, we need to do more than simply proclaim this fact. There is a responsibility on all of us to constantly seek ways of updating and improving the democratic system.

The author is the Conservative MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston.



Law Report February 19 1991 House of Lords

Assessing compensation for land acquired by compulsory purchase order

Hertfordshire County Council v Ozone and Others

Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brightman, Lord Oliver of Aylmerston and Lord Lowry [Speeches February 14]

The special suitability of land for a purpose was only to be disregarded in assessing compensation for compulsory purchase if the statutory powers in pursuance of which it was to be applied related to the use of the land acquired.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the acquiring authority, Hertfordshire County Council, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Rousley Cummings-Bruce) (1989) 2 B.O.L.R. 18 who on July 28, 1989, had allowed in part

their appeal from the Lands Tribunal (Mr C. R. Mallen, FRICS) (1988) 2 E.G.L.R. 213. Section 5 of the Land Compensation Act 1961 provides: "Compensation in respect of any compulsory acquisition shall be assessed in accordance with the following rules... (3) The special suitability of land for a purpose shall not be taken into account if that purpose is a purpose to which it could be applied only in pursuance of statutory powers..."

Mr Michael Rich, QC and Mr John Howell for the council; Mr Matthew Horton, QC and Mr Sebastian Eeles for the claimants; Mr Percy James Ozone, Mr Michael John Wilson and Rothschild Trust Co (C.L.) Ltd.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that the council were the

highway authority for Hertfordshire. The East Hertfordshire District Council (Thorley Lane, Bishop's Stortford) Compulsory Purchase Order 1976 had authorised on their behalf the compulsory purchase of 1,605 hectares of land belonging to the claimants adjoining the south side of Thorley Lane.

The purpose of the compulsory purchase order had been described as *inter alia*, the construction of a new highway from the existing junction of Thorley Lane and the A11 London-Norwich trunk road to a point 124 metres west of the junction of Thorley Lane and Pynchbeck.

The agricultural value of the land taken had been agreed at £5,500. The claimants, however, had contended that it was a "manoeuvring strip", being required to enable residential develop-

ment of a substantial area to the north of Thorley Lane, the Thorley Development Area ("TDA"). By a calculation relating to the difference between the value of the TDA if development was possible and its value if it was not, the claimants contended that their land should be valued at £1,240,000.

That seemed a remarkably large figure, particularly as the planning permission in respect of the TDA did not appear to have required as a condition of development that an access should be made available to the south of it over the claimants' land.

The Lands Tribunal had determined compensation in the sum claimed.

The council's first argument before the Court of Appeal had been that the tribunal had not

identified the scheme underlying the acquisition and, therefore, had failed to identify, as was necessary, the extent to which the value of the land was affected by the scheme.

The Court of Appeal had accepted that argument and remitted the case to the tribunal on the issue of what the scheme was.

The council's second argument, the only one with which the House of Lords was concerned, related to rule (3) of section 5 of the 1961 Act.

The statutory powers that they said were relevant were those to stop up an existing highway in section 209 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

No stopping-up order had been produced and the council had not established that any order had been made.

The council's argument was that the claimants' land could be used for the realignment of Thorley Lane only if there was a stopping-up order in respect of the existing lane.

It was accepted that no part of the existing lane could be affected by any such order lay within the land acquired from the claimants.

In elaborating their contention, the council had argued that it could not be disputed that the land had an enhanced value only in respect of its special suitability or adaptability for the purpose of providing a realignment of the lane.

Further, they argued, in order that it should be so used it was necessary that part of the existing lane should be stopped up, and, since it was a public highway, such stopping-up required the exercise of statutory powers.

On that basis, they claimed that the part of rule (3) relied on required the special suitability or adaptability of the claimants' land for use for the realignment of the lane to be disregarded in assessing the compensation.

Reference had been made to the history and purpose of rule (3), but his Lordship regarded the language as sufficiently plain to reach a clear conclusion on its applicability to the present case.

The special suitability or adaptability of the land for any purpose was directed to be left out of account if that purpose was one to which it could be applied only in pursuance of statutory powers.

That was expressed in the passive voice but the context showed that the application referred to was by a person using

the land, and, therefore, the statutory powers in question had to be powers enabling a person entitled to use the land to apply it to the purpose in question.

Since the purpose in question was one to which the land could be applied only in pursuance of the statutory powers, the statutory powers had to be necessary to enable such person to use the land for that purpose.

His Lordship did not see how statutory powers not related to the use of the land acquired could form a basis for the application of that part of the rule.

Therefore, statutory powers conferred on the secretary of state to order the stopping up of a highway on land that was not part of the land being acquired could not form the basis of the application of that part of the rule to the land acquired.

Since the only statutory powers relied on by the council were those of the secretary of state to stop up parts of Thorley Lane, their argument failed.

The construction of the relevant part of the rule that his Lordship had adopted was consistent with the approach taken by Lord Lowry to the construction of the words "in pursuance of" in a different enactment in *Hampton v Department of Education and Science* (1990) 3 W.L.R. 42.

The council had been correct in submitting that *Cedars Rapeseed Manufacturing and Power Company v Leicester* (1914) A.C. 569, a decision of the Privy Council on appeal from the Superior Court of Quebec, provided an illustration of the cases that Parliament had covered by

the part of rule (3) founded on, but wrong in contending that it applied to the present case.

Then, the purpose giving rise to the enhancement of value could only have arisen where the appropriate statutory powers had been granted, whereas in the present case the land acquired could have been used for a highway without the exercise of any statutory power and certainly had not been dependent on the secretary of state exercising any statutory power to stop up any part of Thorley Lane.

Counsel for the claimants had pointed out that, if the present case was covered by rule (3), it was difficult to see why the rule should not also cover a purpose to which a piece of land could be put only after obtaining some particular statutory consent, such as planning permission, consent under the Building Acts or the like.

It was clear from the modern statutory provisions governing compensation for compulsory acquisition that the question of what types of development would receive planning consent was highly relevant to the determination.

Any construction of the provision founded on that resulted in any enhancement of the value of a piece of land resulting from its use for a purpose that required planning permission being disregarded would be absurd.

Lord Keith, Lord Brightman, Lord Oliver and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Mr W. J. Church, Hertford; Barwin Leighton.

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Appointments will be from 1st September 1991, or otherwise by agreement.

Application forms and further details are available from the Sub-Dean, The Council of Legal Education, 1 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX. (Tel. 071-404 5787).

Applications should be submitted by Monday, 11th March 1991, but those received after that date may still be considered.

When solicitors can be made liable for costs order

Mainwaring v Goldtech Investments Ltd
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss

Judgment January 24

Although the general tort of maintenance was abolished in 1967, solicitors who conducted litigation in the knowledge that there was no real likelihood of their ever having their costs and expenses reimbursed by or on behalf of the client, save in the event of the litigation being successful, could be made liable for a costs order which that client had failed to satisfy.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Miss Zipporah Mainwaring against the dismissal by Mr Justice Hoffmann on November 13, 1989 of a motion under Order 62, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, asking that the costs of two consolidated actions be paid by Lipkin Gorman, who had formerly acted as solicitors to Goldtech Investments Ltd. Appeals by Miss Mainwaring against two other judgments on December 4, 1989 were also dismissed.

Miss Mainwaring in person; Mr Peter Sheridan, QC and Mr Raoul Downey for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court, said that Miss Mainwaring and a Mr Lisle were plaintiffs in the first of two consolidated actions and Goldtech were the defendants. In the second action the roles were reversed.

Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle claimed £40,000 for salary and expenses due under contracts of service or alternatively a quantum meruit and damages in respect of a promised share of profit in Goldtech, an English company formed to carry on business dealing in commemorative gold medals.

Goldtech sought injunctions, *inter alia*, to restrain Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle from representing themselves to act for Goldtech.

Following the abandonment of the action by Goldtech and the settlement of their retained, Lipkin Gorman applied to come off the record on May 4, 1989 and Miss Mainwaring and Mr

Lisle applied for security for costs. On the failure of Goldtech to comply with an order to pay £25,000 into court within 21 days the consolidated counterclaim was dismissed with costs on an indemnity basis being awarded to Miss Mainwaring and Mr Lisle. Goldtech failed to meet that order.

Miss Mainwaring had presented five heads of complaint to the court, the first of which was that Lipkin Gorman had wrongfully maintained Goldtech's action.

The general tort of maintenance was abolished by section 14(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967.

Miss Mainwaring had, however, submitted that while it was not necessarily objectionable for a solicitor to conduct litigation giving financial credit to his client in respect of the liability for costs, it was objectionable for costs to be conducted on behalf of Goldtech.

Even if Mr Lipkin turned out to have been too trusting and even if his firm was not paid all its fees, there was nothing sufficient to contradict Mr Lipkin's evidence that he honestly expected that Goldtech or its promoters would pay and that his firm conducted the litigation on that basis.

Their Lordships agreed with Mr Justice Hoffmann that that was sufficient to meet the charge of maintenance.

Solicitors: S. J. Barwin & Co.

Secret recordings admissible

Regina v Ali

Recordings of conversations between the accused and his family taken in an interview room where the police had planted a microphone without informing the accused or making any record of the "bugging" were admissible in evidence.

The question then was whether the trial judge had correctly exercised his discretion to admit them under section 78 of the Police and

Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Leonard and Mr Justice Belding) so held on February 1 in dismissing an appeal against terms of his imprisonment for the murder of Vernon Waters and 10 years for the attempted murder of Akhtar Bibi, his former wife, imposed by Mr Justice Kennedy at Leeds Crown Court on November 26, 1987.

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Justice defeats blind prejudice

The recent appointment of Britain's first blind judge will help to break down barriers for the disabled, Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, writes

When John Wall first applied to sit on the Bench, he received a polite but firm response from the Lord Chancellor's department that it was not policy to appoint blind people to judicial office. He persisted, and now, 20 years later, has just completed two weeks as a part-time master in the High Court chancery division, the first blind person to be appointed a judge in modern Britain.

Attitudes have changed, but his appointment at the age of 60, after decades of knocking on the door, was not straightforward. The fact that "justice" personified is blindfolded to symbolise impartiality did not seem to carry any weight. "When I was interviewed it became clear that they had certain reservations. The first was that blind people could not observe the demeanour of witnesses. They said you need to see people to know whether they are telling the truth, to which I pointed out that no self-respecting judge would reach his conclusion about a person's veracity on the basis of what they look like. I also pointed out that veracity can be judged in other ways, by how people say things and what they say."

The second objection raised, he says, was that the public would have no confidence in a blind judge. "I pointed out that the public has sufficient confidence in David Blunkett to elect him as an MP, and in the United States, where members of the judiciary are often elected, they have quite a few blind people as judges."

After some months' correspond-

ence, he was given a trial period sitting alongside the chief master, Master Munrow. That was a success and two weeks ago he started work on a range of civil cases — mortgage evictions, dealing with squatters, summary judgments, the occasional litigant in person and a variety of pre-trial applications. His clerk reads him the papers, and he has a Braille machine on which to make notes. So far he has not found any difficulties.

"Justice is supposed to be blindfolded and certainly I find one is not distracted. I had a case where I was being asked to turn the person out because of mortgage arrears, and a woman came in apparently swathed in bandages, presumably to elicit sympathy. But I just listened to the evidence. I did not know about her bandages until the clerk told me afterwards."

The appointment of Mr Wall, who is a solicitor with the City firm Lawrence Graham, and is the chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, will give a higher profile to lawyers with disabilities generally. This, in turn, may have a beneficial spin-off in the courts improving how they cater for disabled people.

John Willis, a solicitor with Lovell White Durrant and the chairman of the relatively new Law Society group, Solicitors With Disabilities, hails the appointment as an important step towards breaking down the barriers that exist between disabled lawyers and the rest of the legal profession, as well as with the general public.

"Breaking down this barrier is one

of our main aims," he says. At the same time, the group is lobbying the Lord Chancellor's department about court facilities. A survey by the National Federation of Consumer Groups in 1984 found varying facilities for disabled people: six out of ten magistrates' courts buildings and six out of 13 county courts were not accessible at all. Within buildings, not all courtrooms (and hardly any toilets) were accessible.

Solicitors With Disabilities wants a say in the design of new buildings so that disabled lawyers, as well as the public, are catered for. "For small sums of money, enormous benefits can be achieved. A handrail can make all the difference for people with walking difficulties, or a line painted at the top and bottom of stairs for the partially sighted."

Mr Wall's appointment is expected to be a boost for other disabled lawyers. "The problem has always been a lack of imagination," Mr Willis says. "It is difficult for sighted people, for instance, to imagine being blind. But if they see someone operating who is blind, they realise they can do the job just as well. People ask how somebody with cerebral palsy can be a lawyer. We have three in our group. It is your brain that counts. This appointment is a great step forward."

Further information: Court Facilities in England and Wales, a Consumer Survey, £3.50 from National Federation of Consumer Groups, 12 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1DE.



Persistence pays: John Wall pushed for years to be a judge

Graduate payoff

LAW graduates struggling at the College of Law to pass their finals normally do so happy in the knowledge there is a job waiting for them. The indications are, however, that they should take nothing for granted. Firms that budgeted for a certain number of graduates are now employing various tactics to dissuade new recruits from joining.

The biggest dilemma for graduates is where the firm offers a lump sum of £5,000 or more as inducement to go quietly. Should the graduate take the money or insist that the firm honour the offer of training? As the contract of employment is unenforceable, the graduate is entitled only to damages equivalent to the salary he or she would have received during the notice period written into the contract. Where the contract stipulates a fixed term of employment for two years' training, in theory damages would be two years' salary.

The Law Society is concerned but has no control over practice. The whole issue is scheduled for discussion by the Law Society this year. The society is, meanwhile, willing to talk to any trainee solicitors who find themselves in this position and talk to the firm on their behalf.

opposing the introduction of a no-fault scheme because it might deprive them of a large proportion of their workload. Under the system proposed, this would be unlikely, because patients are still given the opportunity to sue if they wish, and will almost certainly do so because they wish to have the large, lump sum settlements."

Taking the view that part of the motivation behind a claim is to see the doctor brought to justice, he concludes that if claimants were not able to go to court to vent their anger, they would bring disciplinary action against the doctors involved, a trend that has already started in New Zealand. Either way, the defence union will be busy.

The nick of time

DID you know that under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, children cannot legally buy pets until they are 12 years old, that children five years of age are permitted by the Children's and Young Person's Act, 1933, to drink alcohol, provided they do so at home, and that the police have the power under the Police & Criminal Evidence Act, 1984, to conduct strip searches of children as young as ten?

The Children's Legal Centre has just produced an information sheet for children and



young people, detailing the legal rights they acquire between age five and 21. Sixteen is the age at which a person is most affected by legislation — as well as being able to marry, join the armed forces (boys only), and work full-time, 16-year-olds can buy liquor, cigarettes and fireworks, and act as pilots-in-command of gliders. They have to wait until 18 to be tattooed, and until 21 to become MPs or local councillors.

SCRIVENER

Settle for agreed compensation

Justice, in its widest sense, is unlikely to be served by the inconsistent demands of many of those campaigning for changes to personal injury laws in the field of "no fault" liability and time limits for pursuing personal injury claims, and the constant call for bigger damages.

The urgings of these campaigners are seductive when their objectives are looked at in isolation. Too often, however, they ignore totally the "paying side" of the compensation equation.

Some of these apparently good ideas are, in practice, mutually exclusive. For example, those who are calling for strict and unlimited liability, irrespective of the cost, tend to confine what should be separate calls for compensation, retribution and punishment. By doing so, they undermine

the prospects of a rational debate on the affordability of their compensation ideas, and they confuse the civil law and its remedies with the role of the criminal courts.

The unlimited-liability campaigners also undermine their own purpose by pointing often to excessive American personal injury awards as an example to be followed here and elsewhere in Europe. They fail to realise that the hearts and minds of those involved on the paying side — governments, industry and insurers — are unlikely to be won over by the media-attributed embellishments of their case.

I believe that the campaigners should attempt a consen-

sual approach by exploring the extent to which the paying side might share some, although not all, of their objectives.

Meetings designed to identify shared concerns offer the possibility of enhancing the likelihood of successfully campaigning for improvements that would be welcomed by plaintiffs' and defendants' activists alike.

One idea likely to appeal to industry and insurers as much as to plaintiffs' campaigners is the setting up of an advisory panel. This would be drawn from all interested groups and be charged with the responsibility of establishing guidelines on the levels of damages awards.

The only grouping likely to object to that is the judiciary, and possibly, with the prospect of their advancement to the Bench, the Bar. The creation of such a panel in Britain would set a good example to the rest of Europe, where inconsistencies in the levels of personal-injury awards abound.

Other aspects inviting a common approach relate to access to justice, which remains a lottery, and the need to streamline legal procedures, on which the recent Lord Chancellor's Civil Justice Review represents merely a step in the right direction.

For example, the many

judicial proceedings that follow upon mass tort disasters — inquests, public enquiries, criminal prosecutions and civil litigation (all with their different purposes) — need to be rationalised, albeit in a way that still separates compensation from accountability and punishment.

What is missing at present is a forum in which the concerns of the regular plaintiff and consumer campaigners can be explored with those regularly involved as, and on behalf of, defendants and insurers.

There will, no doubt, be much on which such a gathering would disagree, but surely all viewpoints would unite on the common objectives that

the public is entitled to achieve:

- prompt, predictable and adequate levels of personal injury compensation;
- the level of personal injury awards to be within society's financial resources;
- a system of paying personal-injury claims that does not undermine the separate need to heighten individual and corporate accountability.

If a practical working group could be established, I believe society would benefit from the common pursuit of shared compensation-reform aims, and all would be rendered better able to judge what is fair and affordable.

DAVID MCINTOSH

The author is the senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper and co-author of Personal Injury Awards in European Community Countries.

No-fault faults

THE debate over the advantages and disadvantages of no-fault compensation schemes is likely to be a long-runner. The latest party to enter the fray is Dr Ian Simpson, the chief executive of the Medical Defence Union of Scotland, the organisation for medical practitioners accused of negligence.

He claims that countries that run no-fault schemes, such as New Zealand, do not pay a lump sum to the claimant but provide continuing financial assistance to cover the costs of care. In Britain, he says, those needs are already met by social security.

In an article to be published in the union's magazine, he says: "The defence organisations have been accused of

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MANUFACTURERS HANOVER

Head of Legal Department International Banking in London

Manufacturers Hanover is a major international bank with offices in all the key financial centres around the world. In London, Manufacturers Hanover has had a commercial banking presence for over 60 years and an investment banking presence for more than 20 years. Today this very successful integrated banking group serves a wide range of major corporations, financial institutions and governments which are drawn from both the U.K. domestic market and overseas.

For many years, the bank in London has operated with a substantial in-house legal capability which has the responsibility for organising and advising on legal matters pertaining to the bank's dealings with its wide range of clients. This group also liaises directly with outside legal firms and the bank's legal department in New York.

Applications are now sought from suitably qualified senior lawyers to become the Head of this Legal Department. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate considerable experience and familiarity with English law and practice as it relates particularly to company law and banking; the issue and marketing of securities; syndicated lending; and financial agreements relating to asset sales, options, swaps and other trading instruments. The position requires performance in an active role throughout the generation of a transaction, including the drafting and negotiation of offer letters, information memoranda, prospectuses and all financing documents to completion.

In addition, the position requires strong management and inter-personal skills in order to efficiently direct the day to day operations and staff of a very busy department.

This is a very senior position which will attract an individual of exceptional ability and which will be compensated accordingly. Applications in the first instance should be made in writing to Mr. J. L. Sullivan, Managing Director, Manufacturers Hanover Limited, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 8HT. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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- Be well conversant in all aspects of International Agreements.
- Be Fluent in both Arabic and English, written and spoken.

Location:

You will be based in Saudi Arabia and a considerable amount of your time will be spent in worldwide travel.

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LONDON

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Leading City firm seeks litigator with not less than 2 years' commercial experience for a broad range of commercial litigation including professional negligence and SFO/DTI fraud related work. Excellent salary.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney or Jonathan Macrae (both qualified solicitors) on 071-405 6062 (071-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Contracts and Legal Affairs Department

Are you interested in working in the entertainment industry? Then this vacancy which has arisen in the Contracts and Legal Affairs Department of BBC Enterprises Limited — the fast growing commercial arm of the BBC involved in programme sales, home video and record distribution, licensing, subscription tv, data broadcasting, training videos and book and magazine publishing — offers an ideal opportunity.

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Ideally, you will be a law graduate with approximately one to two years' relevant experience with a thorough knowledge of Contract Law and an awareness of Copyright Law.

Salary £15,063 - £18,904 p.a. Based West London.
For an application form contact (quote ref: 7125/T and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 071-827 5799. Application forms to be returned by March 5th.

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The Property Department's work embraces all aspects of top quality commercial property for an extremely diverse range of clients including large retailers, property and insurance companies, developers, leisure companies, financial institutions, manufacturers and providers of services.

The additional partner (or partners) should have substantial relevant experience and will probably have partnership elsewhere. He or she will be given the opportunity to take a leading role in the further development of this area of the firm's practice. The successful candidates will be offered exposure to work of the highest calibre.

The total remuneration and, where appropriate, partnership package will not fail to appeal.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-405 6062 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends), or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Michael Chambers

London: 071-606 9371 (Fax: 071-600 1793) Manchester: 061-228 2122 (Fax: 061-228 2213)

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Commercial lawyer, preferably with oil experience, to join major international exploration & production company.

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Excellent Salary
Well-known hi-tech group needs a litigator with around three years' experience to join its established legal department.

PRIVATE PRACTICE 'BOLT-ONS'

Several highly-regarded Central London firms seek solicitors with own established practice to 'bolt on' to existing departments.

PUBLISHING: LONDON

Research Lawyer
European publishing group seeks young lawyer, ideally with some research experience, to write up various areas of law for intellectual property.

FINANCE: LONDON

£25,000 + benefits
Recently qualified lawyer, solicitor or barrister, to join legal team of well-known bank. Wide range of commercial and banking law.

ENGINEERING: SCOTLAND

£20,000 + benefits
Recently qualified solicitor or barrister to join in-house team handling general commercial work. Expert in contracts and/or conveyancing useful.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Commercial Litigation: City
Mid-sized firm seeks litigator, 3-4 yrs qual, ideally with insurance or commodities exp.

Private Client: Central London
Major firm offers training to solicitor, 0-2 yrs qual, in high-quality trusts, tax & probate work.

Civil Litigation: Herts/Beds
NQ-1 yr qual solicitor sought for interesting mix of civil lit. £16-18,000 pa.

Commercial Wk & Property: City
All-rounder, 1-3 yrs qual, for development, contract, and lease work in expanding dept.

Corporate Tax: Birmingham
Superb opportunity with major firm for solicitor with corp tax exp to head up department.

Criminal Advocacy: Herts
Busy litigation practice seeks keen advocate to assist overburdened partner. c£15,000 pa.

Intellectual Property: City
3-4 yrs qual solicitor with exp in commercial wk, IP, and competition law to join first-class dept.

Partner Designate: Manchester
Respected city-centre firm seeks senior solicitor for defendant personal injury wk. Excellent salary.

Commercial Litigation: Herts
1-3 yrs qual solicitor for mid-sized firm to handle varied wk, inc insolvency & entertainment.

Co/Commercial: Oxon
Leading practice seeks solicitor, NQ-4 yrs, to strengthen commercial team. to £25,000.

Intellectual Property: Leeds
Young solicitor with good academic record to join leading firm's IP team. c£22-30,000 pa.

Pensions: City
2-4 yrs qual solicitor with City background to join flourishing pensions department.

PRIVATE PRACTICE • LONDON

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Newly Qualified
Substantial City practice. Busy property department handling complex and technically challenging transactions. Bright, enthusiastic newly-qualified solicitor. Excellent training and supervision. City articles not essential.

PROPERTY LITIGATION c. £45,000
Progressive, dynamic Central London practice. Successful litigation department. Solicitor 3-4 years qualified sought to join specialist group handling landlord and tenant, construction and planning matters. Excellent long term prospects.

CONSTRUCTION to £50,000
International City firm. Excellent reputation for construction/building work. Experienced lawyers sought to join busy, successful department. Varied range of challenging litigation matters. Recently qualified solicitors with relevant experience considered.

ENTERTAINMENT min. £35,000
Highly respected City practice. Solicitor sought at least 2 years qualified to assist entertainments partner. Experience of film/television work essential. Other production and distribution or financing. Excellent variety of work.

SHIPPING to £45,000
Major international practice. Outstanding reputation in commercial litigation. Expanding successful shipping group seeks solicitors 1-3 years qualified to join the team. Relevant experience from another large firm or 'niche' practice essential.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION to £35,000
Small/medium sized Central London firm. Seeks bright young solicitor, 2/3 years' P.Q.E. General commercial litigation caseload. Quality work, professional, organised office. Immediate responsibility.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL to £45,000
Highly respected, medium sized City practice. Seeks solicitor 2-4 years qualified for 'mainstream' corporate and commercial work. Broad range of quality clients. Stable environment, ideally large firm joined.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY c. £42,000
Medium sized City firm. Seeks solicitor or barrister 2-4 years qualified for its litigation group. Work will involve all aspects of contentious I.P. High Profile role. Would consider young lawyer from industry.

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Highly successful and well respected medium-sized practice. Small, busy tax group. Seeks lawyer, 3-4 years qualified. Complex corporate tax planning matters, some international work. Excellent long term prospects.

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Please contact Deborah Kirkman or Nick Root (Private Practice) or Paul Mewis (Commerce), on 071-936 2565. Or write to: Taylor Root, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3AB. Alternatively please feel free to telephone us evenings and weekends on 081-675 6384 or 081-441 2848.

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In drafting a Bill, Parliamentary Counsel need to clarify the government's intentions and to select the conceptual and legislative structure most appropriate to their aims. As the Bill passes through Parliament, they undertake the drafting of amendments, attend sittings of both Houses and advise the government on points of law and parliamentary procedure.

This work demands a powerful and incisive intellect, the ability to think creatively and constructively, and the stamina necessary to work under pressure that can often be intense. Just as importantly, it also creates an immensely stimulating career for lawyers right at the heart of government.

Parliamentary Counsel are a small team with their own Office in Whitehall. A recruit begins his or her career as Assistant Counsel to one of the Senior Counsel. There are

now opportunities for barristers or solicitors, qualified in England and Wales, to join the team. In addition to a good honours degree (which need not be in law) they should normally have some professional experience or post-graduate academic experience, or a combination of the two.

Starting salary will be in the range £27,871 - £38,747 with further increments, depending on performance, to £45,057. In the long term, there are prospects of promotion to Parliamentary Counsel with salaries up to £70,400.

Relocation expenses may be available.

Written details and application forms may be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel Office, 36 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AY (071-210 6629), or from the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Any enquiries should be made to the Parliamentary Counsel Office.

The closing date is 20 March 1991.

Please quote ref C/8755.

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City/West End

CO/COMMERCIAL

A young solicitor with a corporate finance background and experience of Yellow Book work is needed by this well regarded medium-sized City practice. Continuing growth is the keynote and the prime requirement is a willingness to be involved in this planned expansion. The quality of work and prospects will reflect this.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

The caseload will embrace a wide range of commercial and contractual disputes which may include insurance and re-insurance, employment, professional negligence, construction, property and insolvency. Around two years' P.Q.E. and a good academic record, with at least a class 2:1 degree, are prerequisites. This is a broadly based commercial litigation department in a prestigious City practice.

Out of London

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY c.£25,000

One of Yorkshire's leading practices needs a solicitor for non-contentious intellectual property work. Ideally applicants will have about 2 years P.Q.E. but those newly qualified with good relevant experience will be considered. Work will include licensing, distributorship and franchising. This is but one of many exciting opportunities in the North of England.

PERSONAL INJURY c.£40,000 + bens

Experienced Solicitor required by prominent South of England practice. Applicants will be expected to handle primarily plaintiff work which will include medical negligence claims. There will be some defendant work. The prospects are first class.

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The government of the Cayman Islands will have vacancies arising on 1 September 1991 for:

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The Cayman Islands are a British Crown Colony in the West Indies, located 450 miles south of Miami. They have a population of 24,000 and one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

Applicants should have a good Law Degree, a professional qualification, and previous relevant experience teaching or in practice. Experience or an interest in Tort, Contract, Evidence, Land Law, Conveyancing and Legal Accounting, Constitutional and Administrative Law, Commercial Law, Family Law and Civil and Criminal Procedure would be an asset, as would a record of research publications.

Salary will be in the scale:

C\$30,732 - 39,364 per annum tax-free plus a Contracted Officers' supplement of 15% of annual salary paid monthly

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Application forms, together with Job Description and notes on conditions of service are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Office
Trevor Hoare
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London SW3 1EX
Telephone 071 823 7613

Application forms, together with a curriculum vitae should be completed and returned by 8 March 1991.



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City firm has a vacancy newly qualified solicitor to handle commercial litigation and general legal work.

Employment

A leading City practice a leading firm in the commercial and employment law field.

Shipping Litig

Medium sized City firm is seeking to expand its shipping litigation and general legal work.

EEC - 2-3 yrs

Medium sized City firm is seeking to expand its EEC work.

Commercial C

Medium sized City firm is seeking to expand its commercial and general legal work.

Intellectual P

City firm requires a solicitor to handle intellectual property and general legal work.

Banking - Ne

Medium sized City firm is seeking to expand its banking and general legal work.

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GENERAL COUNSEL

London W1

£50,000 + Car + Bonus

Our client, with worldwide operations in the entertainment sector, has established itself as a market leader in its field. Owned by two multinational corporations the Group derives significant revenue from its European interests which are the subject of a major expansion programme.

This growth has resulted in the need for a generalist commercial lawyer to join the small senior management team at the Group's Head Office. Reporting to the Chief Executive, the successful candidate will be encouraged to contribute to all aspects of business and strategic decision making.

This demanding position will provide an opportunity to handle a wide range of matters, including international agreements, joint ventures, acquisitions and disposals, EEC, commercial property and employment law, covering a number of different jurisdictions.

Applications are sought from commercially minded lawyers keen to work in a fast moving "hands on" business environment. Probably aged 30 to 40 years, candidates will be expected to use their initiative in dealing with a variety of legal and commercial problems and should possess excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills.

This is a superb opportunity to become the first in-house lawyer operating within a dynamic young company. The post offers high calibre individuals unlimited scope for business involvement at board level; there is some overseas travel, particularly in Europe.

For further information interested candidates should telephone Robert Drury LLB(Hons) on 071-437 0464 (Fax 071-437 0597), or write to him, enclosing brief details at the address below.

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Queens House 1 Leicester Place London WC2H 7BF

Telephone: 071-437 0464 Fax: 071-437 0597

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

CITY OF LONDON

Our client, a highly respected 40 partner practice, has a pressing need for a young solicitor with 2-4 years experience in a similar environment. Although particular expertise in any area would be welcome you should have had a broad exposure to areas such as Insurance, Construction, Professional Indemnity etc.

A diverse high quality caseload, much of it with an international flavour, is promised and therefore a mature and flexible approach is essential.

Career prospects for the successful candidate will be excellent and a salary in the range of £32,000 to £42,000 together with attractive benefits is envisaged.

CONTACT

RICHARD OWEN & HARPER,
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LONDON EC3A 6DE.
TELEPHONE: 071-588-8833.

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OUR CLIENT

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LOCATION

London's West End.

SPECIALISATION

CORPORATE INSOLVENCY.

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PROFILE

1-4 years admitted and able to function effectively as part of a team but also with a high level of autonomy.

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Unrivalled career prospects including realistic partnership opportunity within a dynamic and challenging environment and a competitive remuneration package ranging from £28,000 to £55,000 AAE.

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CONSTRUCTION/COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

SOLICITOR

Qualified approximately 3 years, relevant experience essential.

2 SOLICITORS

Qualified, 2 to 3 years, relevant experience essential.

SOLICITOR

Qualified 1 year

CREDIT MANAGEMENT

SENIOR LEGAL EXECUTIVE

Relevant experience essential.

PERSONAL INJURY

SOLICITOR

Qualified 3 to 4 years, experience in defence work essential.

SOLICITOR

Qualified 1 to 2 years.

We operate in a modern, progressive and friendly atmosphere. To attract and retain our staff we offer a good remuneration package, and opportunity for career progression through training, experience and promotion.

Please either send your c.v. to our Personnel Manager, Una Ebery or contact her on 0272 252020 for an application form and information brochure.



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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

To £40,000

Highly regarded commercial City practice seeks a 3-4 year qualified commercial litigator with a good City background to deal with a challenging mix of work for a diverse, international client base. The work will include international trade and commodities, insurance, construction and employment disputes and will offer the right individual great opportunities in an expanding practice and a progressive career. Ref 1611.

PARTNER DESIGNATE

£60,000++

Exciting opportunity for senior IP solicitor or highly experienced patent agent to join the intellectual property department of this Central London firm. This is a senior appointment for an individual with a strong IP background either in private practice or industry to contribute to this energetic team by means of a following or own contacts. The work is predominantly in patents, their setting up, disputes, etc. but also incorporate advising a wide spread of clients on all aspects of intellectual property. Ref 1037

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up to £40,000

Top London firm seeks a construction specialist of 2 to 4 years' experience in this area. The work will involve drafting of contracts and negotiations for complex projects, as well as various contentious matters such as arbitration. The individual will advise surveyors, developers, financiers and purchasers. Skill, flair and commitment will be amply rewarded. Ref 1018

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Fax: (071) 242 0208

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We are a medium sized legal practice in Holborn and we are looking to recruit a Town Planning Solicitor with at least one year's post qualification experience and a reasonable knowledge and experience of town planning law.

You must have the ability to instruct counsel, organise planning inquiries, negotiate and draft agreements and generally advise on all aspects of town planning matters. As there will be significant direct client contact, you should also have first class communication and interpersonal skills.

In return, we are offering a salary according to experience plus a competitive package of benefits.

If you are interested in this position please write in the first instance to Alison Haver, Personnel Manager, Saunders Sobell Leigh & Deben, 20 Red Lion Street, London WC1R 4AE.

PETERSFIELD HAMPSHIRE

Assistant Solicitor or Legal Executive required to handle general litigation (including High Court), matrimonial work and advocacy.

Minimum of two years PQE. Competitive salary and good prospects for the right person.

Write with CV to Simon Mackerness, Mackerness & Lunt, 16 High Street, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3JJ. Telephone 0730 65111

FAMILY LAW Worcestershire practice needs experienced and to run matrimonial department. First class prospects. Sal £25,000. Law Personnel 071-242 1281. 1281.

LITIGATION Solicitor 0-2 years PQE to handle general lit in exclusive Home practice. Law Personnel 071-242 1281. 1281.

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Due to continuing expansion we need to fill the following existing vacancies and newly created positions in our Company and Commercial Department.

SENIOR SOLICITOR

A Senior Solicitor with a city background and a minimum of four years experience in corporate finance, including in particular Stock Exchange and Business Expansion Scheme work.

QUALIFIED SOLICITORS

Two 1-2 Year Qualified Solicitors: one, with general company and commercial experience and the other with secured lending/banking experience.

If you are interested please write (including your curriculum vitae) quoting ref: JMG/DWJ to (Don Moorhouse, Trowers & Hamblins, 6 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3RP.)

IT'S CRIMINAL

WHAT THE CRIMINAL LAW PRACTITIONER HAS TO COPE WITH THESE DAYS!

If you are a Criminal Law Practitioner, or have experience in this area and are concerned about such things as the future of criminal legal aid, problems encountered by practitioners in the courts, in the police station or elsewhere and have an interest in reforming the law and practice, you may be interested in the post of Secretary to the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee which will become vacant in May 1991.

This is an excellent opportunity to become closely involved in the formation of the Society's policy on all matters relating to criminal practice. You will use good interpersonal and organisational skills for the administration of the committee's work and liaison with members of the profession, government departments, other professions and organisations, the press and members of the public.

We offer a salary within the range £23,313 to £31,572 (inclusive of London Weighting) and excellent benefits including 26 days' holiday, interest-free season ticket loan, contributory pension scheme, free life assurance, private health care and a subsidised staff restaurant.

To apply, please send a full CV and covering letter to Jean Thomason, Head of Personnel and Training, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL.

Closing date for applications is Thursday, 7th March 1991. (All applications will be acknowledged within seven days of this date). First interviews will be held on 18th and 21st March 1991, second interviews will be held on 26th March 1991.

The Law Society is committed to Equal Opportunities



THE LAW SOCIETY

Private Client - 4 years + qual - £Neg

A well respected medium sized City firm requires a senior lawyer at least 4 years qualified for its private client department. Experience of probate, trusts and estate planning is important but an ability to build a rapport with clients is paramount.

Commercial Litigation - Newly qual - £25k

City firm has a vacancy in its commercial litigation department for a newly qualified solicitor or pupil barrister with a good academic background to handle banking and insolvency related litigation. Excellent training available.

Employment - 3-4 years qual - to £45k

A small City practice known for employment law and tipped to be a leading firm in the 90's requires a lawyer to assist in contentious and non-contentious employment matters for large USM and private clients.

Shipping Litigation - Partner - £Neg

Medium sized City firm with national and international offices is seeking to expand its marine department. The successful candidate will probably be a partner in another established firm and have considerable experience of 'dry' shipping and a familiarity with admiralty work.

EEC - 2-3 years qual - to £40k

Major City Firm requires a lawyer with experience in a broad range of EEC work: competition law, dumping and regulatory work. The firm has a long established office in Brussels which acts for banking, telecommunications and motor industry clients.

Commercial Conveyancing - Partner - £Neg

Medium sized commercial City firm requires a senior assistant or a partner to develop this small department. A following is not necessary but an ability to cultivate clients and to instil confidence in other partners is important. Very profitable practice.

Intellectual Property - 2 years + - to £50k

City firm requires a lawyer with experience of contentious IP, law particularly in relation to patents as a number of clients are from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Excellent quality of work and working environment.

Banking - Newly qual + - to £42k

Medium sized City firm seeks either newly qualified solicitors with some banking experience or more senior assistants with experience in domestic and international lending and security, project, asset and property and trade finance. Department currently has 2 partners

Garfield Robbins

Legal Recruitment Consultants, 21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH
Nicholas Robbins or Gavin Crutcher on (071) 405 1123 or evenings (081) 646 4955

Rowe retirement may leave way open for Murphy

By RICHARD EVANS

Selections

1 713143 0000
Racecard number.

Guide to our in-line

racecard

He described the Jockey Club's royalty demand - worth £100 million - as modest, given that in Australia, Japan and

Marquis of Zetland echoed the serious and growing financial problems facing the nation's proud and honourable sport. British racing was grossly underfunded.

"It is impossible nowadays to

Carmarvon warned: "If no remedial action is taken very soon, not only will Tattersalls leave this country and go to Ireland but we shall also see many related businesses being forced to concentrate their

"I urge the government to have the courage and foresight to grant the bloodstock industry a special rate of VAT on the sale of bloodstock and their related services of, say, five per cent."

Stephenson star heads south again

South again

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

BLAZING Walker, trained by Arthur Stephenson at Bishop

Auckland, will make yet another southern foray on Saturday when he seeks a sixth consecutive victory in the *Racing Post* Chase at Kempton Park.

Blazing Walker has a tough campaign in September, the

assignment in Saturday's three-mile handicap chase where he will carry top weight. The chestnut gets an 8-1 quote from Corals, who make Aquilifer and Solidasrock 6-1 joint-favourites.

Gold Cup contender Arctic Call, also entered for the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton on Thursday, is a 7-1 chance with the same firm. However, Oliver Sherwood, his trainer, said last

Recent winners of the *Racing Post* Chase have gone on to greater glory in the Gold Cup

Several leading contenders for this year's National will participate in Saturday's race with Jenny Pitman likely to saddle two of her possible Aintree

Kim Bailey, successful with Mr Frisk in last year's National, is also expected to run his two of his Aintree contenders in Man

O'Magic and Docklands Express.
Nicky Henderson, who has a strong hand in his attempt to capture the National for the first time, will be represented by **Wont Be Gone Long.**

Henderson will also unleash some of Cheltenham festival probables at the Sunbury track.

Remittance Man, an Arkle Trophy candidate, lines up for the Galloway Braes Novices'

Henderson will also run his Stayers' Hurdle representative Mutare in the Rendelsham Hur-

Two meetings

3.55 (2m hole) 1, LEACROFT (Ger Lyons, 12-1); 2, Lochane (M Brunnen, 5-1); 3, Obelisk (S Smith Eccles, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Cosmic Ray (6th), 11-2 Trace Of Irony, 8 Belinda, 10 Damsel (4th), 12 Northern Lion, 20 Curvet (5th), 25 Occamist, Waterweed, 11 ran, 34, 23, 394, 81, 3. W Heath at Milton. Total 512-50.

4.25 (2m flat) 1, NUT TREE (R Bellamy, 20-1); 2, EMERALD VENTURE (R Hodge, 9-4 fav); 3, PHAROAH'S SON (F Monner, 9-1). ALSO RAN: Absc: 5-2 Jeffarby, 7 Charterfordware (6th), 9 Emma Joe, Pers Bazille (4th), 14 Alwin's Ace, Bald

Joker, 15 Zeet For Life. Matchstick Charlie, 25 Royal Fool, Skip Leader (5th), Mariners Love, Royal Report. 18 ran. 1x1, 11, 2x1, 20, 21. D Wills at Taunton. Totals: £22.40; £14.20, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £76.10. CSF: £73.63. After a stewards' enquiry the result stood. Placepot: £206.46.

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SPORT

Dexter pushes for change in English cricket

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN COLOMBO

DEFEAT in the Ashes series in Australia this winter has not dimmed Ted Dexter's enthusiasm for bringing a more modern approach to English cricket. After two years as chairman of the England committee and expected to be re-elected for a third at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) meeting at Lord's next month, Dexter intends to continue to change the structure of the domestic game, believing that the programme is too crowded and should be reduced.

Dexter's views of Test cricket, the value of England A tours, the domestic game and the preparation of the national side have a common theme. "Test cricket is now a 90-over game, meaning that someone, perhaps, is not going to do their share," Dexter said here yesterday during the rest day in the second five-day international between Sri Lanka and England. "It was different when I was captain in Australia in 1962-3 and 115 overs a day was the rate. The extra bowler was needed then for the additional 25 overs."

"It's also important for us to keep in touch with what the county captains think, what the umpires are thinking and what is going on at ICC level. My job is to make sure we are going straight towards our targets. About 15 years ago it didn't really matter who England picked against India, Pakistan and New Zealand — we usually went out and beat them. That doesn't happen any more and we have got to get our game sorted out so we can produce enough cricketers of the right quality. We have the finances in county cricket but we clearly have not been producing the talent required to keep ourselves at the top of the international game."

Dexter believes that the domestic programme is too crowded and should be reduced. In the wake of England's defeat at the hands of Australia in the recent Ashes series both Bobby Simpson and Allan Border, the Australian manager and captain respectively, have suggested that English cricketers play too much and that four-day matches are needed.

"Everyone agrees except the county chairmen and treasurers, who are concerned that membership and finances would suffer," Dexter said. "Persistence is all that is left. We must keep plugging on and the arguments will continue. We ought to be able to produce enough cricketers of the right quality, but we clearly have not been doing that."

Dexter admitted that pitches in England remained a problem and that the right kind of surface had not yet been found. Covering seemed to make most pitches last in a similar form with little wear resulting. Asked whether he would favour uncovered pitches, Dexter said this issue was "a little bit of a red herring".

All world cricket and certainly the international game is now played on covered pitches, and it is Test cricketers that they are trying to produce. "Mind you, uncovered pitches can be terrific fun to play on and they bring much more variety," he said. "But let's be honest, they are not going to produce Test cricketers."

Dexter is not certain that slow, turning pitches, such as those England A are meeting in Sri Lanka would necessarily get reported in England as being unsuitable. He appreciated it was a new experience for the A team players, who were more used to dealing with seamers on green pitches.

"Not very well," was Dexter's reply when asked how he used to play spin. "Obviously the most skillful players use their feet and nothing upsets a slow bowler more. Basically, you play back to give yourself the maximum amount of room and time to judge the length." Dexter said he rarely sweated, but everyone had to work out their own technique.

Meanwhile, the key to the second five-day match here, when play resumes today, will rest with how soon the pitch deteriorates. England hope to bat all day and establish a lead that will put Sri Lanka under pressure. Should Sri Lanka get any sort of a first-innings lead, though, England could struggle on the last day should the pitch turn awkward.

SCORES: Sri Lanka 408 for 9 (Dexter 108, Malinga 67, A G D Wickramaratne 51, R A Peck 4 for 75, England A 217 for 4 (M H Fairbrother 71).



Shared ambition: Trevor Vaughan, left, captain of the Cambridge University hockey team, meets his Oxford counterpart, Andrew Grimes, right, outside Leeds of London yesterday. They are pictured with Peter Cooper, director of CE Heath, the match sponsor

Foldvari sees limelight

By STEVE ACTESON

ROBBY Foldvari, unlike most professionals, is entirely averse to the bright lights for prolonged glare blurs his vision.

Yet even with this handicap, the Australian, who is ranked 99th in the world, last night defeated Cliff Wilson, Wales, 5-0, in the £400,000 Pearl Assurance British Open at Derby to reach the last 32 of a ranking event for only the third time in seven years.

He achieved breaks of 80, 33, 35 and 54 despite being banned by the snooker authorities from wearing the bush hat to shade his eyes between shots in the qualifying competition. He also declined their invitation to wear either a visor or sunglasses "that would make me look ridiculous".

Foldvari said: "I've seen

three different specialists and I was so worried before I was told what the problem was that I felt like quitting the game." He claims, however, the distinction of being the only professional to have won properly sanctioned billiards and snooker events — the 1986 world billiards championship and, less grandly, the 1989 Favorite Fried Chicken satellite snooker tournament in Clacton.

The problems still affecting eleventh-ranked Willie Thorne undermined him again yesterday as he lost, 5-4, to Robert Marshall, the world No. 46 and a semi-finalist last year, who doubled the final black to win the decider.

Thorne had missed three clear but difficult chances to secure a much-needed victory on that ball and said re-

signedly: "There are so many outside pressures on me that it's become a tough game at the moment. I've no confidence at all." Marshall was criticised by Thorne as being "unable to handle the pressure" when he beat him, 5-1, in this event two years ago. Marshall handled it well yesterday, however.

RESULTS: Third round: R Foldvari (Aust) beat G Wilson (Wales) 5-0; T Gelfing (Wales) to J Gruch (Neth) 5-0; M Barnett (Wales) to B West (Eng) 5-2; R Marshall (Eng) to W Thorne (Eng) 5-4. Quarter-finals: R Marshall (Eng) to J White (Eng) 5-1; J McLaughlin (Irel) 5-2; A Knowles (Eng) to J Price (Neth) 5-2; A Hogg (Irel) to J Smith (Eng) 5-3; G Golan (Can) to D O'Kane (Neth) 5-4.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY (third round, best of nine frames): 9.30: R Foldvari (Aust) to G Wilson (Wales); 10.00: T Gelfing (Wales) to J Gruch (Neth); 10.30: M Barnett (Wales) to B West (Eng); 11.00: R Marshall (Eng) to W Thorne (Eng); 11.30: J McLaughlin (Irel) to J White (Eng); 12.00: A Knowles (Eng) to J Price (Neth); 12.30: A Hogg (Irel) to J Smith (Eng); 1.00: G Golan (Can) to D O'Kane (Neth).

'Growler' troubles Martin

CHRISTOPHE Auguin, the French yachtsman, took up the overall lead in the BOC single-handed round the world race from John Martin yesterday when the South African's yacht, Allied Bank, was damaged by ice mid-way between New Zealand and Cape Horn (Barry Pickhall writes).

Martin reported that his 60ft carbon fibre yacht hit a "growler", one of the large chunks of ice that, away from the many icebergs, all competitors have encountered in the Screaming Sixties latitudes. The collision caused one of the

yacht's main stringers to crack in two places and some deformation around the yacht's keel.

At the time, conditions were storm force, with winds blowing up to 50 knots, and Martin was left with no alternative but to furl his sails and head northwards towards warmer and calmer waters. He is expected to assess the damage today and decide whether to continue in the race, or head for the Chilean port of Punta Arenas, 1,795 miles to the north east.

Minoru Saito's Japanese yacht, Shuntendohji, moved

into the lead in the Corinthian class yesterday, ahead of Robin Davis, of Cornwall.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 10.30 GMT, Sunday, Feb 18): BOC Single-handed Round the World Race: 1. C Auguin (F), 2,357 miles; 2. G Group (A), 2,357 miles; 3. J Gruch (Neth), 2,357 miles; 4. D O'Kane (Neth), 2,357 miles; 5. J White (Eng), 2,357 miles; 6. J McLaughlin (Irel), 2,357 miles; 7. A Knowles (Eng), 2,357 miles; 8. J Price (Neth), 2,357 miles; 9. A Hogg (Irel), 2,357 miles; 10. J Smith (Eng), 2,357 miles; 11. G Golan (Can), 2,357 miles; 12. D O'Kane (Neth), 2,357 miles.

McMahon is hoping for better news

By IAN ROSS

STEVE McMahon, the Liverpool and England midfielder, will learn this morning whether he requires surgery on the knee he damaged during the 0-0 FA Cup fifth-round draw against Everton at Anfield on Sunday.

McMahon sustained a serious tendon injury to his left knee during a tackle with John Ebbrell, the Everton full back, and he has already been told that he will be unable to play for several weeks.

If an operation is needed, McMahon, who is still in a Merseyside nursing home, could be absent for up to two months. "We will know tomorrow exactly what the specialist is going to do," Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, said.

The loss of McMahon, who had only just returned to senior football after recovering from a groin injury, is another setback for Liverpool as they pursue a second League and FA Cup double in just five seasons.

Ronnie Whelan, the Republic of Ireland international, will be unavailable for at least the next four weeks after fracturing his right shin during a League game against Everton 11 days ago. David Burrows, the England B international defender, is shortly due to start a two-match suspension.

Kevin Sheedy, the Everton midfielder, will definitely miss the replay against Liverpool at Goodison Park tomorrow after pulling a hamstring during the second half on Sunday. However, Mike Newell, the Everton forward, will be available after completing a two-match suspension.

Lee Sharpe, the young Manchester United winger, is expected to sign a five-year

contract. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has offered Sharpe, aged 19, a new deal even though he still has more than 12 months of his present contract left to run.

"Lee has done exceptionally well and I want him to be a star at this club when he is 26 years old," Ferguson said.

Leicester City today issued a strong denial that they had approached Archie Gemmill, the Nottingham Forest coach, to become their new manager.

Reports have suggested that the second division club were about to name Gemmill as the successor to David Plegat, with Gordon Lee, the present caretaker-manager, becoming general manager.

But a Leicester spokesman said: "No decisions have been taken yet on the applicants and no approach to any club has been made."

● The sixth and final meeting of the season between Arsenal and Leeds United is to be screened live by ITV on Sunday, March 17. The teams drew 2-2 at Elland Road in September and settled the FA Cup fourth-round tie at the fourth attempt when Arsenal won 2-1 on Saturday.

Each club collected £15,000 for the last match, which was shown live on BSkyB, but Arsenal will be paid £150,000 and Leeds £45,000 for the game at Highbury next month.

Southampton are also guaranteed a six-figure sum from their home game against Liverpool on April 1, which has also been selected by ITV for live coverage. The kick-off at The Dell has been put back to 5pm to avoid clashing with the rest of the Easter Monday programme.

Maidstone serial, page 33

Platini is likely to pick Cantona

MICHEL Platini, the manager of France, indicated yesterday that he would play Eric Cantona in their European championship qualifying match with Spain on Wednesday, even though the forward has played just 47 minutes of football in three months.

Cantona has only just recovered from a knee injury sustained in late October, and his club, Marseilles, have sent him on only briefly as substitute in two recent league matches.

But Platini is clearly anxious to play Cantona in Paris alongside his team colleague, Jean-Pierre Papin.

"That would reunite a partnership which has been at the heart of a French run of success. The side has remained unbeaten for almost two years."

"The side has been in place for two years and has not lost a game. My inclination is to keep it," Platini said. "The main question was to know

whether Eric had completely recovered physically. Now we are sure he has.

"From my point of view, he is 100 per cent. I am not running a big risk by playing him."

France lead group one with maximum points from three matches, and would take a big stride towards the European championship finals in Sweden next year if they beat Spain.

Diego Maradona has reiterated that he plans to leave Naples at the end of the season and retire from professional football (AP reports).

"I will never play again at a professional level," Maradona said in an interview with RAI television in Italy. He said he believed he was the victim of a "vendetta".

Maradona's multi-million-dollar contract with Naples runs through 1993, and the club has so far refused to release him.

The board will decide

WEST Bromwich Albion's directors have turned deaf ears to calls from the players for Stuart Pearson, the caretaker manager of the club, to be appointed as successor to Brian Talbot.

John Silk, the club chairman, insisted last night that the board would not be swayed by the players. "I'm glad they feel loyalty to Stuart but they said the same thing before we appointed Brian Talbot," he said.

"Everyone was delighted

with the 3-0 win at Blackburn on Saturday, but the players' opinions won't influence the board one way or the other."

The Swindon Town defender, Nestor Lorenzo, has had a three-match ban increased to five. The Argentinean, who is due to start the suspension tonight when Swindon take on Sheffield Wednesday, was sent off at Norwich in the third round of the FA Cup.

The extra two games were added because he had accrued 21 penalty points.

Games bidders must invest in more than spirit

By EMLYN JONES

BRITISH sport has a penchant for self-destruction, but at least the two rivals for a London Olympic bid decided at the last moment to patch up their differences and to meet the British Olympic Association's deadline. London will now compete with Manchester to become the BOA's nominee to host the Olympic Games in 2000.

What caused all the hubris between the London Olympic 2000 consortium, headed by Sebastian Coe, and that of the London Council for Sport and Recreation, with representatives from 32 London boroughs? The reasons, petty politics and personality clashes do no credit to those concerned.

The resignation of Peter Lawson, the general secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), from London Olympic 2000, announced in a statement that

would have done credit to an outgoing prime minister, appeared to seal the merger.

While one can admire Lawson's entrepreneurial skills and his commitment to the CCPR, even if it can seem over-zealous at times, the fact remains that neither he nor his chairman, Ron Eames, should have been involved with either consortium. The CCPR should be available to advise and, where justified, encourage any city contemplating a bid, but it should remain neutral. That said, it is to be hoped that the successful city will ultimately utilise Lawson's talents.

But will there be a successful city? The duty of the BOA is to assess the quality of the bids and decide if either should go forward to the International Olympic Committee.

The BOA can decide not to put forward a candidate city even if the bids meet the necessary criteria. However, to exercise this right would break faith with the BOA's function of promoting the Olympic movement. While there is undoubtedly a strong body of opinion, not least in the media, that a British bid, irrespective of its quality, stands no chance of success with the IOC's system of voting and the Latin influence within the IOC, it is not the BOA's task to pre-judge the issue.

There is no shortage of bidding cities across the world, many of them, if they are realistic, recognising the Olympic dream that the important thing is not to win but to take part. I was involved in promoting the Birmingham bid which, perhaps naively, we thought had an outside chance. But, when it was all over, it was obvious that even if this city had had all the climatic

advantages of the Côte d'Azur with the Mediterranean lapping at Spaghetti Junction, it would not have got the IOC's vote.

However, the BOA was right to allow Birmingham and Manchester to throw their hats into the ring. Furthermore, both would agree that their expenditure of about £2.5 million each was worthwhile in promoting the image of their cities and attracting investment.

There is, of course, an amoral aspect to this situation. The IOC should, but does not, lay down what any bidding city must put on the ground: even if its bid is not successful. To its credit, Birmingham has built an international convention centre, which will house the IOC conference this year, and a national indoor sports arena, despite losing its bid for the 1992

Games. How many unsuccessful candidate cities can match this achievement?

The successful city should always be making some contribution to sports development by extending and improving its facilities. That obviously was an issue between the two London consortiums and it is no doubt being addressed. London's undoubted attraction will be seriously eroded if its bid consists of started-up second-hand facilities. Both London and Manchester badly need new facilities and, unless Manchester can guarantee to put something on the ground on its second bid, its candidature, despite its excellent campaign on the last occasion, should be regarded with some scepticism.

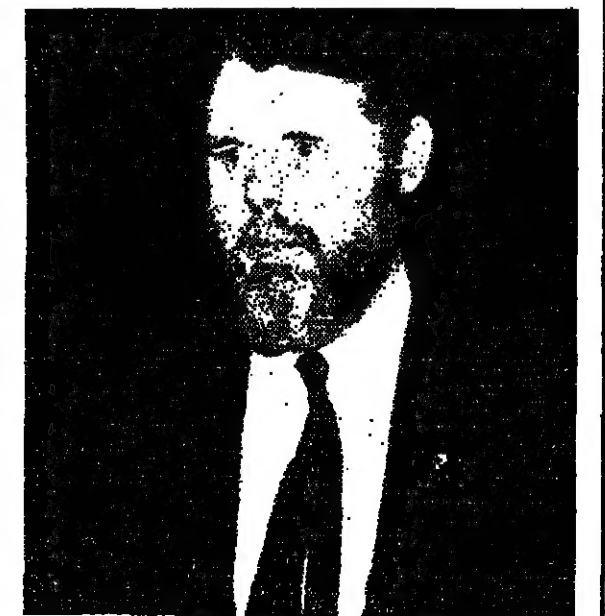
● Emllyn Jones is a former director-general of the Sports Council.

Wate's first involvement in hostage politics came in early 1981. He was sent to Iran as the archbishop's "special envoy" and secured the release of three British missionaries who had been held for six months for "ransom". In November 1984 he was sent to Libya, where more than 200 British were being held by Colonel Qaddafi. The friendly, belligerent Wate - he was now 250 pounds - paid several visits to Tripoli and got on good terms with the megalomaniac colonel.

"At his first meeting with Qaddafi he couldn't fit into the tent."

"At his first meeting with Qaddafi he couldn't fit into the tent."

Wate, who first met Qaddafi in Libya, "the hunchback his shoulders and made a joke. He was very good at breaking the ice. He would always come up with something. He was a con man. He would always pay attention to the bellies, the recesses of Wate's



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